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Kazakh president tisbands assembly

LMATY (AFP) — Kazakh resident Nursultan Nazar-... rayev dissolved the parlianent and his government on laturday, concentrating all hower in bis hands. Mr. Azarhayev disbanded the egislature after the Central Asian country's constitutioncourt declared that the farcb 1994 parliamentary lections had been illegal. he president said he would

Cabinet exempts 50% of newsprint tariffs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday decided to exempt 50 per cent of newsprint used by newspapers annually from tariffs charged by the government, with the exception of the sales tax. he decision means that the newspapers will be exempted from 25 per cent of the tariffs they used to pay. The decision stipulates that these newspapers must commit themselves not in raise newspaper prices and not to hike charges for government advertisements. Newspaper publishers in Jordan had recently decided to increase advertisement charges and prices of newspapers effective April 1 to be able to face a more than 100 per cent increase in the cost ni newsprint in the last eight months. The Cabinet, meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, also decided to form four Jordanian delegations to participate in various Arab meetings and two nther teams to negotiate with the European Investment Bank in Luxembourg over nbraining two



Charles in Egypt for 'dialogue with Islam'

CAIRO (AFP) - Prince Charles on Saturday began a four-day visit to Egypt during which he will meet with Muslim religious leaders for talks no holding a "dialogue with Islam," his press secretary said. The prince was met at Cairo airport by Britain's Ambassador here Christopher Long and an Egyptian diplomatic corps nfficial. He was to dine with Egyptian President Hosni Muharak. The Prince will be "pursuing his long-standing interest in Islam and will be talking with Muslim and Christian leaders about the dialogue between Islam and the West," his press scoretary, Sandy Henney, said. The prince is to meet with the highest Sunni Muslim authority, Sheikh Gad Al Haq Ali Gad Al Haq of Al Azhar, as well as the grand mufti of Egypt, Mohammad Sayed Tantawi, and Coptic Orthodox Pope Shenouda III. The sheikh of Al Azhar is regarded as the highest authority in Sunni Islam, while the mufti is the most authoritative source of opinions on religious issues in Egypt. Speaking to the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies in October 1993, Prince Charles said that "the degree of misunderstanding between the Islamic and Western worlds remains dangerously high."

Volume 19 Number 5864

Sahaf in Oman

MUSCAT (AFP) — Iraqi

Foreign Minister Mohammad

Saed Al Sahaf held talks here

Saturday with Omani leaders shead of a U.N. Security Council review of the crippling U.N. embargo imposed on his country. Mr. Sahaf

brought a message from President Saddam Hussein to

Oman's Sultan Qaboos and

met with Foreign Minister Ynusef Ben Alawi Ben

Abdullah, the official agency

ONA reported. The meeting

focused on "developments in

the situation in the Gulf and

member of the Security

Deutch named to

WASHINGTON (AFP)

The White House nn Satur-

day nominated the number

two official at the Defence

Department, John Deutch,

to head the Central Intelli-

gence Agency (CIA) after the president's first choice

stepped aside, Mr. Deutch

replaces President Bill Clin-

ton's nomination of Michael

Caras, a retired air force

general. Mr. Carns asked

that his name be withdrawn

on Saturday after it was

learned that be may have

violated U.S. immigration law by belping the Philippine nepbew of a former cook for

the Carns family come to the United States. Mr. Clinton

said he accepted Mr. Carns'

withdrawal request with "profound regret." Mr.

Deutch bad previously been

under consideration for the

KHARTOUM (R) -

Sudan's capital is facing a

water shortage, and a senior

government official bas

for its inhabitants, be said

Saturday. He did not say wby

the government had halted

spending on water facilities,

but the government has

struggled with an economie

KUWAIT (AP) - Security

anthorities arrested four Ira-

gis who crossed illegally into

Kuwait in separate incidents

last week, the Interior Minis-

try said Saturday. Ministry spokesman Adel Al Ibrahim

qis in a boat approaching

the shore where they were

that at. One of them was

njured in the shoulder," Col-

mel Ibrahim said. The man

was being treated in a local

lospital, be said. But his

crisis for years.

trespassers

Kuwait detains 4

Khartoum suffers

water shortage

here Saturday after a two-day

visit to Qatar (see page 12).

head CiA

Council. Mr. Sahaf arrived

AMMAN SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 1995, SHAWAL 11, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Developing world wants more than words to fight poverty

Copenhagen summit closes today with declaration

COPENHAGEN (Agencies)

— World leaders, pledging to stamp out the scourges of poverty and injustice, opened summit on Saturday that will approve a plan of action to help the bundreds of millions who live below the

But developing countries - including China and India, the two most heavily populated nations on the planet --criticised affluent Western states for not doing more to close the growing gap between rich and poor.

"This is the moment to meet and act ... for the first time in history every country shares a set of concerns about poverty, jobs and social disintegration," U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali told the assembled leaders in the "Never before have so

many world leaders come together for such a purpose." The summit, attacked by many aid groups as little more than an expensive jamhoree, will approve an action plan on Sunday that commits governments to eradicating poverty by working together

CAIRO (Agencies) — Pales-tine Liberation Organisatinn

(PLO) Chairman Yasser

Arafat held talks with Egyp-

tian President Hosni Mubar-

ak bere Saturday on Palesti-

nian attempts to push for-

ward autonomy negotiations

Mr. Arafat left Cairo for

the Gaza Strip at the end of

the 90-minute talks without

making any statement tn the

ter Safwat Al Sharif said.

nowever, that the Palestinian

leader and Mr. Mnbarak

"discussed contacts under-

way to lift obstacles which

exist on the Israeli-

Palestinian track as well as

obstacles linked to the clo-

sure imposed by Israel" of

Mr. Arafat briefed Mr.

Mubarak on the ontcome of

talks with Israeli Foreign

Minister Shimon Peres and

U.S. Secretary of State War-

ren Christopher, Mr. Sharif

the West Bank and Gaza.

Egypt's Information Minis-

with Israel.

in a new spirit of post-cold war cooperation.

The plan encourages better use of development aid and recognises the need for debt relief. But it includes no binding commitments and is seen as a starting point for

Danisb Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Ramussen, hosting the summit, told the embled leaders they were "living in a world of unacceptable contradictions" and urged rich countries to start acting by giving developing nations greater debt

"Let us transform bopes into action, to the benefit of billions of people. Let us give all the people of the earth a decent life. We have the tools, let us use them," he

There are an estimated 1.3 billion people living in poverty around the world, most of them in Africa, parts of Asia and Latin America. They lack everything, from clean water to basic education and medical facilities.

Arafat seeks Cairo's help

to advance peace process

Anstria announced it would write off around \$100

viewed the situation in the

light of the results of the

meeting between Mr. Arafat

and Mr. Peres," be added.

wbn met Thursday set a July

1 target date for an end to

negotiations on the second

stage of Palestinian anton-

omy in the West Bank, which

involves self-rule elections

and an Israeli army redeploy-

ment outside Palestinian

Mr. Peres also announced

confidence building mea-

sures, such as increasing per-

mits for Palestinian workers

in Israel. The Jewish state

sealed off the Palestinian ter-

ntories on Jan. 22 following a

suicide bombing which killed

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said earlier be

hoped the Arafat-Peres talks

"reached an agreement on

concrete issues and were not

just bot air, without any

foundation, which will not

After one-to-one talks Mr.

achieve any progress."

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres

million nf debt to developing countries, following a similar pledge from Denmark earlier

his week. Nevertheless, leaders of the world's poorer nations called for stronger global ac-

"Islands of affluence cannot be sustained in a sea of deprivation. The rich amongst us are preoccupied with limited national agendas," declared Pakistan President Farooq Leghari.

Indonesian President Snbarto, whose country chairs the 111-nation Non-Aligned Movement, said the summit was a unique chance to build the new world order so often talked about.

"In this we cannot afford to fail, for what is at stake is how our children and their children are to live," be said. Chinese Premier Li Peng said the world's wealthy had grown rich at the expense of

the poor and warned that a crisis in the developing world would have wider effects. "If it is left unattended, the rich countries will suffer too," he

were joined by Mr. Sharif, as

well as Mr. Mubarak's poli-tical advisor Osama Al Baz

and chief Palestinian auton-

omy negotiator Nabil Sbaath.

the importance of Egypt's

role in the peace process,

"especially in major un-

finished issues such as (the

Israeli army) redeployment

A PLO nfficial in Cairo

said that Israel and the PLO

would resume talks there on

Tuesday in a fresh bid tn set a

date for the long-delayed

Egypt, Mr. Arafat mentioned

the troop withdrawal and

Palestinian elections, then

added: "We didn't reach an

interim agreement on these

Mr. Arafat's spokesman,

Nabil Abu Rediena, said the

PLO leader also told Mr.

Mnbarak that only limited

progress bad been made.
"The Israelis tried to say

(Continued on page 7)

Before leaving Gaza for

Palestinian elections.

and elections.

two issues."

Mr. Arafat earlier stressed

Narasimha Rao said it was wrong to focus too much on 'untrammeled" Westernstyle market forces as the way

to solve problems. "It is only now, at the fag (tail) end of the century, that the leaders of the world have begun to think of bow to live, rather than how to kill or escape killing," he said.

The twn-day summit gathering, following a week of sometimes heated negotiations nn bow to word the 90-page final declaration, is costing more than \$30 million to stage.

Notable absentees are U.S. President Bill Clinton, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and British Prime Minister John Major. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat too busy with Middle East peace problems, cancelled plans to

Cuban President Fidel Castro, who will address the summit on Sunday, told Danisb television in an interview that market economics could not fulfil the aims of the U.N.

(Continued on page 7)

S.Lebanon ports come

police said.

cess in his current Middle

A police statement in Rashaya did not specify what provoked the Israeli bombardment on five villages facing the eastern sector of an enclave Israel occupies in South Lebanon.

anti-Israel resistance fighters are believed to have bases, were blasted by bowitzer and tank cannon fire around mid-

The statement identified the girl as Samira Sharaf, 14, and three brothers from the Sobob family. It did not give

The new casualties brought the overall toll in South Lebanon violence this year to 41 killed and 83 wounded. Mr. Christopber, who has already visited Egypt and Israel, was expected to raise

Security sources said 1,800 impoverished fishermen resumed their normal activities at dawn after being forbidden since Feb. 8 by Israeli gunboats from sailing more than one kilometre from the coast

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri said on Fri-

morning without facing any trouble from the Israeli boats which were visible to us hut were very far from the coast," fisherman Mahmoud Bawji told Reuters.

went back to fishing as usual far from the Israeli boats ... and can feed our kids now," said Ahmad Sanbal, 45, a father of five. Israeli gunboats slapped

the blockade against fishing boats, but not commercial



Wesley Egan. Prince Hassan stressed the East (Petra photo) importance of supporting the United Nations

PRINCE MEETS OAKLEY: His Royal High-ness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday holds it to carry out its duty towards Palestimian talks with U.S. assistant Secretary of State for refugees. He said UNRWA's continued ser-Refugees and Population Phyllis Oakley (centre) in a meeting attended by U.S. Ambassador importance to the peace process in the Middle

Princess Basma urges Arab action in human development

COPENHAGEN (Petra) -Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Saturday called on Arab countries to prepare buman development strategies and to make them part of their national development plans.

At a meeting of U.N. bnman resources development ambassadors with representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) participating in the U.N. Summit on World Development con-vened in the Danish capital, Princess Basma called for the creation of an Arab reginnal development fund to prepare studies and do research and prepare practical develop-

ment programmes. · The Princess, in an address at the outset of the meeting, stressed the importance of exchanging expertise among

advanced countries nn the Sbe said women were the

biggest victims of poverty in the world and that strategies to fight poverty ignore women. She noted that 70 per cent of the world's women suffer from poverty.

Princess Basma reviewed Jordan's experience in fighting poverty and improving women's conditions. She outlined the role of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development's (QAF) role in developing the local society and supporting programmes aiming at encouraging individuals to achieve self-

She also dwelt on the role of the National Commission on woman's affairs at the level of preparing the national strategy nn women and Arab countries on the one activating it in legislative band and the developing and economic, social, political and educational fields. Earlier Saturday, Princess Basma addressed a press conference in which three U.N.

ambassadors participated. "Women constitute only 22 per cent of the labour farce in Arab countries compared to 50 per cent in the developing world as a wbole and this is a pretty low percentage," Prin-

cess Basma said. 'Only 17 per cent of working women are in administrative and managerial positions," she added.

"Obviously the role nf NGOs as in other parts of the world is gaining a greater sense of importance than ever because development needs the popular participa-tion which NGOs offer. NGOs offer the best vehicle for translating the message

Saud visits Syria ahead of Christopher

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia's foreign minister paid an unexpected threehour visit to Damascus amid U.S. Secretary of State Warren Cbristopber's latest efforts to revitalise Syrian-Israeli peace talks.

On arrival, Prince Saud Al Faisal beaded straight into a meeting with President Hafez Al Assad after telling staterun news media be was carrying a messge from King Fahd.

At the talks' end, a presdeutial spokesman said the Saudi prince and Mr. Assad discussed current Arab and reginnal issues and the latest developments in the Middle East peace process. He did

not elaborate. The official Syrian Arab News Agency said Prince Sand carried a reply from Mr. Assad to King Fahd, but did not disclose its contents. The prince flew home after the

Mr. Christopher began a Middle East sbuttle on Wednesday. His main objective was to lure the Syrians back to the negotiating table a year after they abandoned the talks in protest over the lack of progress.

The secretary of state was in Israel Saturday. He already has visited Egypt and met in Gaza with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

On Sunday, Mr. Christopber flies to Saudi Arabia, and from there to Syria and Jordan. In bis talks with the

Israelis, Mr. Christopber stressed the need to resume the Israeli-Syrian peace talks.

portedly are worried that Israel, which already bas signed peace accords with Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians, would strike new separate deals with other Arab countries and isolate Damascus.

pressuring its allies in the

gestures toward normalising relations with Israel tn belp promote regional peace. But these countries, which

are led by Saudi Arabia, remain reluctant to do so while the Syrian-Israeli talks are deadlocked over the Jewisb state's refusal to commit itself to a total withdrawal from the Golan Heights which it occupied in 1967 and "annexed" 14 years later.

Syrian media meanwhile accused the United States of failing the Arabs in its role as a co-sponsor of the peace The official daily Al Thaw-

ra said: "The United States bas still not fulfilled its role as an impartial and bonest partner since it completely backs Israel which wants to win land and peace without giving anything to the Arabs. "It is clear that the United

States is not a partner of the Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said Israel was not

prepared to make peace and nnly wanted to keep its grip on the occupied territories. Mr. Sharaa told the Saudiowned daily Al Sharq Al Awsat published in Cairo: "Syria appreciates the efforts of the United States but it seems that Israel is not ready

to sign a peace treaty with

Syria as it puts forward prop-

osals that only make peace less likely." Mr. Sharaa, speaking from Copenhagen, accused Israel of "trying to draw the Arab states into signing documents which will give it the right to continue" its occupation.

"Israel signed a (1993) dec-

Israel over the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as strange and extremely par-

Ministers review claims for Gulf war damages

of Interior Salameh Hammad, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Abdul Salam Al Abbadi and Labour Minister Nader Abul Shaar on Saturday beld a meeting at the Gulf returnees' compensation follow-up centre at the premises of the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Commit-

of the meeting was to discuss compensation for returnees and future plans to follow up According to Dr. Abul

Shaar, the meeting also discussed the issue of incomplete claims for compensations filed by returnees.

He voiced hope that all applications forms would be completely filled so as to be sent to the Geneva-based special United Nations committee in charge of following up the issue as soon as possi-

which were given to appli-

pensation fund recently annonnced that it will approve 19,000 claims in the A category on March 20. but the payment of compensations for these claims will depend on funds availability.

blamed bis colleagues for attempted 123 withholding money needed to alleviate the crisis. More than a million people live in Khartoum and its environs, built where the Blue Nile and the White Nile meet. The shortage is due to a lack of funds for building drinking water facilities, said Faronk Al Tayeb, bead of the Khartoum water supply authority. The anthority produces some 390,000 cubic metres a day, while the capital needs some 600,000 cubic metres a day

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said one of the alleged trespassers was wounded before his arrest. He said a coast guard patrol spotted two Ira-U.S. magician plans N Kores to force them to coast on performance fid not stop and headed to

ondition was not known.

Nasser reelected president of JBA

The two men also "re- Arafat and Mr. Mubarak

By Amy Henderson Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Kamal Nasser was reelected president of the Jordanian Bar Association (JBA) in the early morning

hours Saturday.
Mr. Nasser, an opponent
nf "nnrmalisation" with Israel and a pan-Arab nationalist, won in a second round of voting with only 112 votes over noted progovernment candidate Khalaf Massadeb. Following Mr. Nasser into the JBA's new leadership are the following council members: Ahmad Abu Samen, Saleh Armouti, and Ziad Khalifeh (from the Islamic bloc); Samir Kherfan and Zian Khasawneh (independent candidates); and Ali Dhmour, Sbaher Karzone, Mazen Irsheidat, and Zuhdi Dissi (National Unity bloc

candidates). The government, bowever, still has the option to dissolve the president and newly elected council since the JBA acted in defiance of Minister of Justice Hisham Al Tal's eleventh-hour instruction to the JBA last week. On Tuesday, Mr. Tal demanded that all West Bank members of the association be dropped from the roster and not anowed to vote in the elec-tions. Their participation in the elections, he said, would

be considered illegal and contrary to Jordanian national policy and sovereignty because Jordan disengaged it-self from the West Bank in

The directive caused a furor within the JBA - which opposes Jordan's October peace treaty with Israel. The association said it would refuse to comply with the minister's instructions, claiming that the government was trying to stifle its antinormalisation voice. Mr. Nasser called the decision an "interference in the bar asso-

ciation's internal affairs." Despite the uproar, voting commenced Friday as scheduled and proceeded uninterrupted until early morning Saturday. At least 150 West Bank lawyers participated in the first round of elections. sentatives refused to validate their hallots in order to im-

plement the minister's deci-

sion. (Ministry of Justice representatives bave to validate all ballots according to JBA by-laws). However, the JBA did include West Bank ballots in the tallies on Saturday. By press time Saturday, Mr. Tal could not be reached for comment on the results and procedures of the elections. However, he reciterated several times during the

course of last week that the

ministry's decision would be implemented. During electinns nn Friday, the minister said that he "had no idea" if he would ask the Higher Court of Justice for the new council's dissolution. 'It all depends on bow the procedures go," be told the Jordan Times during election proceedings.

According to JBA by-laws, the minister of justice or any group of lawyers can ask the higher court to review any elections results they find to be illegal. If the higher court concurs, the council can be dissolved,

There is concern among most members of the bar association that the minister will move to bave the council dissolved. Some lawyers at the Professional Associations Complex on Saturday also expressed concern that defeated candidate Massadeb may also do the same. Mr.

(Continued on page 7)

to life SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies)

- Lebanese fishermen ventured out into the open sea along Lebanon's coast for the first time in a month on Saturday, a day after Israel lifted a partial naval blockade following U.S. mediation.

brothers were wounded when Israeli troops bombarded villages suspected of harboring guerrillas in South Lebanon,

The sbelling underlined tensions on the last active Arab-Israeli war front as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher strove tn revive the sagging peace pro-

East swing.

It said the targets, where

the issue of South Lebanon inhis talks with Syrian leaders

or risk being fired at.

day Israel had lifted its month-old sea blockade off South Lebanon and thanked Mr. Christopher for his role in baving it lifted. "We ventured out this

"Thank God it's over. We

Washington bas been

AMMAN (Petra) - Minister

Mr. Hammad said the aim on the issue.

The secretary general of the centre, Yahya Al Uteibi, said the centre, established upon directives by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in July 1993, has paid the first installment of claims of the B category. This totalled 241 claims worth \$982,500

Cants. B category elaims total

C category claims total 42,370, D category claims total 1,315 and A category 65,234. The total estimate for these claims stands at \$3.5

:Ot

But it was not clear whether he has developed any new laration of principles with the ideas to break the logiam. Palestinians without abiding by its commitments or bon-Meanwhile, the Syrians reouring its signature. What then is Syria to do?" he said. billion. The Geneva-based com-Al Thawra also slammed Washington's stance on the row between Egypt and

(Continued on page 7)

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A delegation representing the American Bar Association (ABA) arrived here Saturday on a four-day visit aimed at gaining firsthand information on Jordanian laws and regulations governing investments, copyright laws, banking proc-

The visit of the delegation is seen by officials as important because most of its members are directly connected with American firms doing business in the Middle East and the impressions on Jordan that they carry back could be highly influential in determining American pri-vate sector investment in the Kingdom.

The very nature of the delegation's meeting here indi-cated that the visitors are looking for close familiarisation with Jordanian laws and regulations on investments and related procedures in trade as well as industry.

The delegation, headed by Jay M. Vogelson, chairman of the ABA's section of international law and practice, will meet with Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb, businessmen, officials from the Amman Chamber of industry and the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce as well as

They will also visit the Amman Financial Market

LONDON (Agencies) —

The abrupt cancellation of a

British minister's visit to

Israel has given Prime Minis-

ier John Major a preview of

the diplomatic minefield he

will enter on a three-day trip

to the Middle East starting on

Plans for Junior Foreign

Minister Douglas Hogg to go

with Mr. Major were drop-

ped to avert a tow over Mr.

Hogg's intention to visit

Orient House, the Palestine

Liberation Organisation's

(PLO) headquarters in East

The government's explana-

tion that Mr. Hogg was

staying in London because

his boss, Foreign Secretary

Douglas Hurd, would be ab-

sent at the same time in the

Gulf was a "transparent ex-

cuse to avoid a showdown."

the Times said in an editorial

that it was too much to have

two Foreign Office ministers

To decide at this stage

Jerusalem, diplomats said.

Sunday.

(AFM) for a general review of the rules and regulations governing foreign capital in the market.

Ali Dajani, an advisor at the Amman Chamber of Industry, noted that the delegation's visit was the first of its kind since the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty in October and comes amidst Jordan's efforts to project itself as an ideal base for regional business.

Mr. Dajani said Khaldoun Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, would explain to the group, in a meeting on Monday, the development of Jordanian industry and related laws and seek to set up some form of cooperation between the chamber and the American Bar Association.

The Amman Chamber of Industry is the most active private sector organisation in Jordan," said Mr. Dajani, adding that it had set up and was planning to establish special departments dealing with issues such as studies and information, the environment, vocational safety, and small and medium-size indus-

Mr. Abu Hassan will also seek to enlist the support of American lawyers in realising Jordan's quest for U.S. assistance in the form of debt relief and economic assistance.

Most of the members of the delegation are based in the United States. Others are based in the Middle East acting on behalf of American

Major gets a foretaste of Mideast

paper said.

for capitulation to intense

Israeli lobbying," the news-

The incident risks oversha-

dowing Mr. Major's visit,

which will also take him to

Jordan and Gaza in a show of

support for the delicately

poised Middle East peace

Mr. Hogg's place in Mr. Major's party will be taken

hy a semor Foreign Office

official, Andrew Green, who

could still ruffle Israeli feath-

ers with a planned "courtesy

meet Palestinian officials at

the residence of the British

Officials said Mr. Major.

the only British prime minis-

ter to visit Israel apart from

Margaret Thatcher in 1986.

hopes to cement the rapid

improvement in bilateral re-

lations since Israel signed a peace deal with the PLO in 1993.

On and for the Occassion of

Mother's Day

Will Exclusively open for Ladies

Kindly Call For Reservations 645229

Mr. Major himself will

call" at Orient House.

consul-general.

In addition to Mr. Vogelson, the delegation includes: Emad Tinawi, special counsel to the law firm, Faegre and Benson in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Edison Dick, attorney consultant and chairman of the International Legal Exchange com-

mittee of the American Bar

Association; Khaled Akkawi, vice-president and owner of tax preparation franchises in the Chicago area; Ellen Bean, general counsel at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada; E. William Cattan, who represents White and Case in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; William Cox, a consultant to the law firm of Cox and Wilkinson in Hamilton, Bermnda; George Haimbaugh, a professor of law at the University of South Carolina School of Law: Abdul Ghafar Hussein, an international arbitrator resident in Dubai; Sanaa Hussein, who practises law with Tishler and Wald in Chicago; George Kraw of Kraw and Kraw in San Jose, California; Mark Lazarre of Shoemaker, Lazarre, Daspit and Blackwell in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Kazunori Uete, a member of the legal staff of

Economic Commission for Europe and Geneva. The delegation will leave Jordan for the Palestinian self-rule enclave of Jericho on Wednesday.

Accompanied by Trade

Minister Richard Needham

and a group of leading

businessmen, Mr. Major also

wants to stake Britain's claim

to a share of any future

sed diplomacy as the best

huilder of hridges between nations," said Conservative

Member of Parliament Alan

Duncan, who takes a close

In Gaza, which he visited

as member of parliament in 1982, Mr. Major will open a

business seminar and is due

to hand over a fleet of 50

patrol vehicles to the poorly

equipped Palestinian police

The donation is on top of

£75 million (\$120 million) in

aid that Britain has already

pledged for the Palestinians.

"We see our aid to the Palestinians as helping Israel

because it contributes to the

peace process," an official

interest in the region.

Trade has long since pas-

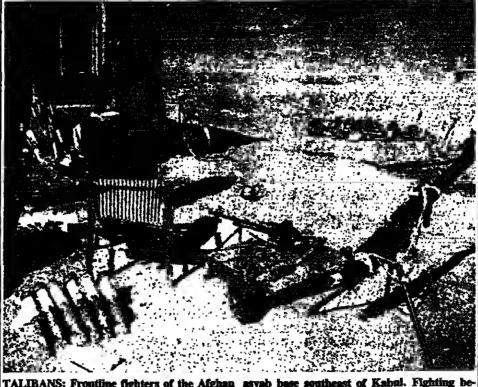
'peace dividend."

Hitachi Corporation of

Japan; and Cynthia Wallace,

senior advisor to the execu-

tive secretary of the U.N.



TALIBANS: Frontine fighters of the Afghan asyab base southeast of Kabul. Fightin Taliban movement armed with a Chinese-made recoilless rifle relaxing near their Charerapted Saturday (AFP photo)

Gulf states step up measures against diseases

from abroad ABU DHABI (AFP) - Gulf states bave agreed that foreign workers from Asia and other main labour suppliers should have medical checknps at home before entering the region to stop diseases spreading from abroad,

newspapers said. Health officials from the Gulf Cooperation Conneil (GCC) discussed ways of stepping np a campaign to stop the spread of contagious diseases at talks in Dubai on Thursday.

A GCC health delegation is to visit countries which are key labour suppliers to discuss the measures with authorities there.

"The delegation will start the visits from next month and the measures could be enforced from June," they said in a statement.

The delegation will also discuss agreements to determine the bealth centres that will carry out the check-ups." At present expatriate workers coming to the GCC are subjected to random

Authorities in most member states also carry out regular raids on restaurants and other facilities or force foreigners to produce health cerificates when they extend

their residence permits. The new measures come after several AIDS cases were diagnosed in the region and the outbreak of plague in India late last year.

More than balf the GCC's seven-million-strong workforce are foreigners, mainly from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Philippines and other Asian coun-

They are attracted to the region by the high per capita income one of the highest in the world following the discovery of oil.

Officials said GCC states - Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arah Emirates (UAE) - had boosted health coordination since.

Sick foreigners deported from any GCC state were not allowed entry.

The new measures on

standards for health monitoring of expatriate labour in the GCC" also tightened rules on jobs for sick fore-

Archaeologist resumes hunt for Alexander Great

archaeologist who says she has found the tomh of Alexander the Great at Siwa in Egypt's western desert left Cairo on Friday to resume excavations.

Liana Souvaltzi said in January she had found the tomb but she then left historians in suspense by taking a one-month break before starting to excavate an underground passage which may lead to the hurial chamber of the Macedonian warrior-

A Greek team of experts who visited the site during the hreak poured cold water on Ms. Souvaltzi's claims, saying they saw nothing to prove that the ruins were Macedonian, or even that they were necessarily the remains of a tomh,

Egyptian experts have also questioned Ms. Souvaltzi's interpretation of three ancient tablets found at Siwa. She says they prove that Alexander's deputy Ptolemy I, ruler of Egypt, brought this

body to Siwa for burial. Maged Atallah, a member of Ms. Souvaltzi's team, said that before resuming digging, she would assess the progress of work to drain the passage way, which was clogged with mud and water.

The passageway leads off

CAIRO (R) - A Greek main entrance to the site, made up of two ruined build-ings, one of which is over 50

metres long.
"The water has partly receded, but there may be some preparations needed before work resumes, Mr. Atallah told Reuters.

He was speaking at a meeting late on Thursday of Greek and Egyptian historians to discuss the Siwa dis-

Most historians, citing ancient Greek and Roman writers, believe Alexander, who died in Babylon in 323 B.C., was huried in the Mediterranean port city he founded — Alexandria. But modern excavators have failed to find signs of his tomb there.

Historian Hassan Ragab told Thursday's meeting that Ms. Souvaltzi may have uncovered a tomb built for Alexander hut never used for that

He said that in the tumultuous years after Alexander's death, his successors quarrelled for the honour of burying the man whose conquests spread Greek influence

throughout the Mediterra-nean and deep into Asia.
"Ptolemy himself may have built two tombs for Alexander - one in Siwa and another in Alexandria," Mr.

Iran, Philippines to join forces to fight drugs, terrorism TEHRAN (AFP) - Iran and accords were signed during

the Philippines agreed Saturday to boost cooperation in the fight against drugs and terrorism at the end of a one-day visit by Philippines President Fidel Ramos.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani described his talks with Mr. Ramos as "positive" and said the visit — the first by a philippines head of state since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution - had led to "a better climate of trust."

Mr. Rafsanjani, quoted in an official statement after the talks, said the two countries could develop cooperation "in the struggle against ter-rorism and trafficking in

drugs and arms."
The two leaders stressed their "political will" to step up cooperation and "shared views on political matters,"

the statement said. Relations between the two countries have been virtually non-existent since the Islamic

Several technical, trade and cultural cooperation

The Philippines leader also discussed ways to boost ties between the Association of Sonth-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), to which the Philippines belongs, and the Economic Cooperation Organisation of which Iran is a member.

Trade between Iran and the six members of ASEAN Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand -

reached \$1.5 hillion in 1994. Mr. Ramos pledged that the issue of Muslim minorities in the south of his country would be "solved peace-

For several years the Iranian government backed the Muslim rebellion led by the Moro Liberation Front in the south of the Philippines, angering Manila.

But last summer the Iranian amhassador to Manila pledged that Tehran would end its support for the rebel-

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia, Oman interested in Caspian pipeline

MOSCOW (AFP) - Leaders of Russia and Oman confirmed their intention here Friday to proceed with a Caspian pipeline contract which also involves Kazakhstan. the news agency ITAR-TASS said. The \$1.8 billion pipeline project was the main topic at a meeting between Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and a delegation from the Sultanate of Oman headed by Deputy Prime Minister Qais Abdul Monim Al Zawawi. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitkor Posuvalyuk said both sides reaffirmed "a sincere desire" to build the pipeline, which would stretch for several hundred kilometres to carry oil produced off the shelf of the Caspian Sea. ITAR-TASS said the Omanis expressed alarm that Kazakhstan, the third member of the Caspian pipeline consortium, was not at the talks, but were assured by the Russians that this did not signal Kazakh doubts about the project. Officials said the two sides also discussed economic relations, cooperation in the oil and gas industry, oil prices, problems within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and cooperation with Iraq.

Mubarak to visit U.S. next month

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will pay a visit to Washington next month at the invitation of President Bill Clinton, the White House said Friday. In Cairo, the official MENA news agency reported that Mr. Mubarak would travel to the United States on April 5. White House spokesman Michael McCurry said talks between Mr. Clinton and Mr. Mubarak will focus on the Middle East peace process, bilateral and regional issues. The United States is seeking to win support from Egypt for an indefinite extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), but Cairo is resisting and demanding that Israel also adhere to the treaty. The talks between Mr. Clinton and Mr. Mubarak were to be held less than two weeks before the opening in New York of a 170-country conference to discuss the proposed extension of the NPT.

Eight arrested in Lebanese drug swood

BAALBEK (AFP) — Lebanese police and Syrian soldiers arrested eight drug-traffickers in eastern Lehanon on Friday after a four-hour siege, officials said. Some 40 kilos of hashish resin and 25 kilos of cannabis seeds were also seized along with a number of personal arms, the official agency ANI said. The arrests tonk place in the villages of Kfardan and Jiha, about 15 kilometres from the town of Baalbek whose 3,000 residents have lived for years from trafficking hashish.

16 dead in Oromo-Somali fighting

MOGADISHU (AFP) — At least 16 people, including four clan leaders, have been killed and 23 others wounded in fighting between Somalis and Oromos in Ethiopia's southern district of Negele near the border with Somalis and Kenya, a Somali clan leader claimed bere Friday. Issak Mohammad Abdi (Issaq Dhere), told press conference bere that it was "the Oromos, who are facing political problems, who had first attacked their Somali neighbours" over a long-standing land dispute. He appealed to Somalis in Somalia to support their compatriots in Ethiopia, warning that the conflict could spread to other parts of the region. But the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) representative in Mogadishu, Garbi Wajira, said the Oromos were in fact "fighting the rnling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF)."

U.S. defence secretary to visit Gulf -

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry will visit Saudi Arabia and four other Gulf states this month to discuss military cooperation with leaders in the key oil-producing region, the Pentagon said on Friday. In addition to planned talks with King Fahd and Saudi officials, Mr. Perry will meet leaders in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arah Emirates during his March 18-23 visit to the area, where the United States is keeping a close watch on Iraq and Iran.

Beirut publisher sues police

BETRUT (R) - A Beirut publishing bouse said on Friday it has filed a lawsuit against police for confiscating a book hy late liberal Islamist writer Al-Sadeq Al Nayhoum. Dar Al Rayyes, publisher of the book "An Islam Against Islam," said in a statement the ban on the book was illegal Islam," said in a statement the ban on the book was illegal as security forces had no authority under Lebanese law to order confiscation of publications. Police seized copies of "An Islam Against Islam" and two other books by Mr. Nayhoum in January at the request of Mufti Mohammad Rashid Qahbani, Lebanon's highest Sunni Muslim religious anthority. Lebanese law allows heads of religious groups to order confiscation of books they consider offensive to their include.

aworld t

Germany agrees to extradite Kurdish militants

BONN (AP) — The German government announced Friday that it had agreed to extradite Kurdish criminal suspects under terms it said would ensure they are not tortured or otherwise abused in Turkey. It did not say when it would begin extraditions. Nor did it say how many or which militant Kurdish separatists would be returned to Turkey. The agreement follows talks between interior ministers Manfred Kanther of Germany and Nahit Mentese of Turkey. It applies to members of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which the Bonn government banned in late 1993. The interior ministry made the announcement in a statement Friday evening. It said Turkish authorities have agreed to let Bonn know whether a candidate for extradition faces criminal proceedings and what the consequences could be, especially if the death penalty is involved.

JORDAN TELEVISION

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17:30	Que Le Mielluer Gagn
18: 00	Le Feu de la Terr
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Tel. 811295

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

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Nairouib pharmacy	62367
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RJ Flight Information (18-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	18-53200

HOSPITALS

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

AMMAN: Hussein Modical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Ama 644281/6 Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2 Jabal Annuan Maternity ... 642362 Maihas, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4 Shmeisani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845845 Al-Muscher Hospital 667227/9 The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6 ... 664164/6 ... 777101/3 Italian, Al-Muhajreen ... 777101/3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26 674155 Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital

Princess Basma Hospital Greek Catholic Hospital Ibn Al Nafers Hospital

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be veri-ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 65:35 88-35

Aqaba (RJ)
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in the visit are Minister of Higher Educa- Saturday reviews bilateral educational tion Rateb Saoud and U.S. Ambassador cooperation during a visit to the

Educational Exchange. Participating here His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Jordanian-American Commission on

Crown Prince visits office of Binational Fulbright Commission

Prince Hassan Saturday underlined the importance of the exchange of information between Jordan and the U.S. benese drug sage in educational and academic fields saying this would reflect positively on the Jordanian society and its edncational institutions. During a visit to the office of the Jordanian-American Studies. We are producing Commission for Educational Exchange (JACEE) in Am-

man, also known as the Binational Fulbright Commission. Prince Hassan said cultural Somali fightin; exchanges play a signifiant role in enhancing cultural and technological dialogue hetween researchers and students in both countries. He said this would lead to

AMMAN (Petra) — His

more interaction and would support the educational process in a manner serving the local society. The Crown Prince stressed

the importance of exchanging scholars and researchers between Jordan and the U.S. and the utilisation of Jordanian and Arah capabilities in the U.S. to serve Jordan's halanced message at the American level. social behaviour. He called for holding semi- Nevertheless, t

nars to improve the image of 2 the intellectuals should know Arabs, Muslims and Islam in the West and to highlight

rious parts of the world.
The Crown Prince added that in terms of publications 'we have had over 20 nationalities participating in and publishing the works of history and archaeology conferences, whether at the Bilad Al Sham conference, or the publications of the Arab Thought Forum or the the Islamic Centre for Civilian

books on Muslim attitudes towards non-Muslims, producing books which are relevant to promoting moderate Islam. Instead of complaining about extremism, one should ask oneself what active moderation is doing. And yet the problem is that many of these books are gathering dust on bookshelves.

Prince Hassan and JACEE officials discussed the need to enhance dialogue and exchange of information and

Commission members Bassam Saket and Marwan Kamal also underlined the importance of having dialogue between intellectuals, saying such dialogue should be expanded to become acceptable

Nevertheless, they said, the limits of their freedoms within a framework of re-

Commission Executive Director Alain McNamara hriefed Prince Hassan on the commission's duties and activities in the field of promoting educational cooperation among students and scholars in both countries.

Mr. McNamara said the commission offers costsharing grants to Jordanian students and scholars who want to pursue higher studies in the U.S. as well as to American students wishing to study Arabic or do research in Jordan.

The commission, he said facilitates the process of exchanging researchers doing specialised scientific studies with the aim of enhancing cultural cooperation.

The commission, whose office in Amman was opened last December, was estab-. lished in accordance with a hilateral cooperation agreement signed between Jordan and the U.S. in 1993.

It is a non-profit organisation that offers scholarships to students and teachers and scholars from both countries. Prince Hassan was accom-

nied on his visit to the office hy Higher Education Minister Rateh Al Saoud, U.S. Amhassador to Jordan Wesley Egan and other officials from the commission.

women artists display the world through their eyes

way, the mythical phoenix.

After raising the greatest expectations at first with its ambitious format — a group exhibition which hriogs together no less than 25 of Jordan's women artists, several among the foremost tradite Kurdish . in the country - it then proceeds to disappoint.

And then somehow, in a mysterious way, it rises from its own ashes to present hope

The exhibit's hrochure makes it clear it has not been held for the sake of generating commercial sales, but for a cause and conviction instead—to give a chance for a diverse spectrum of local known professionals to women artists, from wellohschre hut promising amateurs, to gather together and present a wholistic, bird's-eye view of their sepa-

-- rate voices and visions. Due to this widely divergent range of working experi-ence between the 25 partici-PALL PAIN Pants of 'The World Through the Eyes of Women," only the most selfrighteous critic would sit in judgement as if the exhibit were a fully professional event - it is not, as one participant was completely

unashamed to admit. "I'm an amateur, not a professional," Sana'a Al Masri, a painter, told the Jordan Times. Unlike some of the heavyweights in the exhibit, Ms. Masri was simply drawn to paint hy "the beautiful things I see everywhere," without any additional pricking spur of ambi-

Even keeping in mind, however, that the exhibit is an all-inclusive event rather than an exclusive affair for Mirtuosos only, one still felt omethiog lacking. Perhaps this was because the seven or eight artists of high stature, who should have provided a core to enhance the displays of the other artists, failed to



Desert cityscape by Suba K. Noursi

impressionist paintings hy Rula Shuqairi were of fine

gems were to be found.

Perhaps the most intriguing work of the entire ex-hibition was a wonderfullysculpted abstract, triangular head, carved out of brown and rose-red sandstone by

Thus it is that somewhat unfortunately,"The World Through the Eyes of Women," despite its intriguing framework, provides the viewer with an incomplete sense of satisfaction. Even so, the sincere enthusiasm and conviction of some participants, such as Alia

Ammoura, remains behind. "A woman artist in this country has to really fight if she wants to make something of herself," said Ms. Ammoura. "She has to put up with a lot of nos, a lot of

refusals." Even if some of the exhibit's participants were "still on their way" in their artwork, she felt that what was so critical was that "this work as well.

With such a spirit, said Ms. Masri, Jordan would have the potential to reach levels of artwork seen "in higger nanot be an excuse."

consciousness-raising efforts as this exhibit, she said, there were other means - art classes at local schools and colleges, public seminars and lectures, higher standards of art criticism in local newspap-

artists prosper as a result, she suggested, but audiences would become more educated and critical as well.

Through the Eyes of Women" cannot be highly was actually presented, it manages to give ample food for thought, and point to doors which, if entered, may offer more than ample atonement for this exhibit's weak-

on the occasion of International Women's Day, March 8, cootinues until March 18.

2 labourers killed, 1 injured on work site Sewerage ditch wall collapses burying victims

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Two meo were killed and a third was injured Saturday wheo a dirt wall caved in and buried them under three metres of sand and stone. police and Civil Defence Department (CDD) officials said.

The three workers, all Egyptian nationals, were drilling a new sewerage system io a 4.5m×1.5m×7m ditch around noon in the Gardens Street area. "All of a sudden one side of the dirt wall collapsed burying the three men," a witness told the Jordan Times.

According to a worker on the site, one side of the opening was supposed to have been supported by blocks of wood to prevent a possible collapse.

The land at one side suffered from sliding gravel and it needed support, but I don't know why the support was not placed," he

In addition, he added, a Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) engineer was supposed to be present during the time of the digging, hut no one representing the WAJ was present at that

According to a WAJ official, the project was small and "it was not necessary to have an eogineer to supervise the project at this

stage."
"They were still digging it was not necessary to have a engineer to supervise the pro-ject," the WAJ official, who preferred anonymity, told the Jordan Times.

CDD rescue teams called to the site of the accident took under an hour to lo-cate the body of the first victim identified only as Abdoh, 20. The worker's t...dy was pulled from the

ruoble at about 1:30 p.m. When the victim was carried out of the ditch, some women standing by started crying, and a large crowd began to gather to watch the rescue operation.

When the victim was placed oo the stretcher, a loud yell was heard and a fellow Egyptian worker was seen jumping towards the victim and sobbing over the body. The second victim, the

ooly survivor and ideotified by his first name, Sa'id, 28, was pulled out two hours later. The third victim, Mohammad, 24, was pulled out five minutes later.

CDD officers' attempts to administer exygen were fruitless because two of the victims were already dead. "It was a tough operation

because the ditch was very tight, and one of the work er's leg (Abdoh) was stuck under the ground, and we had to dig very carefully so that we would not hurt the only survivor," a CDD official said.

The contractor in charge of the site was rushed to the Speciality Hospital suffer-ing from shock. The sole survivor was also taken to the Speciality Hospital. The deceased were taken to the Jordan University Hospital.

None of the three workers were wearing protective helmets. Saturday's work related deaths hring the total number for the year to

eight. Last year, 23 people were killed and more than 13,000 were injured in work related accidents.



Civil Defence Department rescue workers, police and water authority officials at the scene of Saturday's accident which killed two labourers and injured another who

were trapped under sand and stone while working on a sewage system (Photo by Rana Husseini)

Rape, murder suspect confesses — police

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times in Tabarbour. ZAROA -- A 47-year-old . many in essed to the murder of a ten-year-old Zarqa

camp girl after a sexual assault, Zarqa police announced Saturday. Colonel Adnan Abdullat, director of the Zarqa Police Department, identified the man only as Shelish M. S. a service driver who

works on the Jahal Abiad route, and said he had confessed to raping and m rdering the girl.

The suspect is married to two women, and has a son, 7, and a daughter 8, Col. Abdullat told a press con-

The suspect told police that he picked Samar Ghothein while he was on duty on Al Shahid Street. He said four passengers were already in the car. After dropping the other passengers off, the suspect took the victim to wooded area in Yajouz and raped her, said Col. Abdullat.

According to the police report, the girl started hleeding, and the suspect said he tried to stop the hleeding hut failed. The suspect said he had no ot er choice but to kill the girl to hide his crime, the report said.

The suspect said he strangled the girl with his hare hands then took the body and dumped it in a

g:00 p.m.

ican Centre at 5:00 p.m.

Ab'ad Art Gallery.

Cultural Centre.

contemporary Arab artists.

valley near Ahu Alia area Samar's body was found on Feb. 24 by a shepherd

two days after she was kil-The child, was reported missing on Feb. 22 after she was last seen riding in a hlue car hy a schoolmate, police said.

Col. Abdullat told the press conference that police traced the child's movements on that day. and concluded that Shelish

M. S. was the main suspect. according to the police official, the suspect did not know or have any relation with the victim or her fami-

In the meantime, Civil Defence Department (CDD) frogmen Saturday retrieved the bodies of two meo, both aged 19, who were reported to have drowned in the Hidan area in Madaba on Friday.

The dead were identified by the CDD as Ibrahim Mohammad Suleiman and Mahmoud Saber Mality. A CDD official told the

Jordan Times that the area in which the two men went swimming was full of undertows. He called on citizens to avoid swimming in these hazardous areas.

CDD statistics of 1994 indicated that there were 80 reported swimming accidents which killed 36 people and injured nine.

WHAT'S GOING ON

BALLET

A Performance by the Prague Chamber Ballet (organised

FILM

Film entitled "High School Confidence" at the Amer-

LECTURE

The Family and the Social

Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition of paintings by Nazli Irtemcelik at Alia Art

☆ Exhibition of art by Rula Shukairy at the French

* Three exhibitions of plastic art by George Edilbi,

★ Exhibition by Syrian artist Marwan Qassah Bashi at

Darat Al Funun. Also showing a permanent exhibition of

Abdulish Kamaleh, and Mohammad Majali at the Royal

Changes in the Gulf Countries" hy Baqer Al Najjar at

by the National Music Conservatory and the Czech

Embassy) at the Royal Cultural Centre main theatre at

Rawabdeh attends celebration for International Women's Day

AMMAN (Petra) - Deputising for Her Royal High-ness Princess Basma, Deputy Prime Minister and Educa-tion Minister Abdul Raouf Rawahdeh Saturday attended Irhid Governorate's celebrations of International Women's Day organised hy the Irhid Culture Department in cooperation with the National Committee for Women.

Department Director Suleiman Azra'i delivered an address in which he commended the Jordanian women's pursuit to gain their rights and affirm their active participation in the national

development process. Dr. Azra'i said the women's struggle for equality and the fulfillment of their rights depicts man's struggle against injustices, slavery, racism, poverty, unemploy-ment, persecution and wars. He said Jordanian laws have at an early stage responded to the requirements of modern time and thus they were progressive in giving women their rights, including the right to vote and to run for parliament and public

The Ministry of Culture, Mr. Azra'i said, realises the cultural and social dimensions of women's issues. Thus the ministry helps uncover women's creative capabilities and potentials in cities, villages and desert areas, and nourishes them in cooperation with other national institutions, he added.

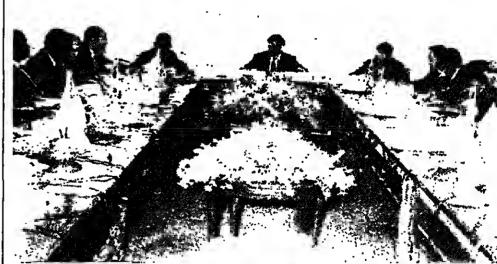
The commission's rapporteur in Irbid Governorate, Nada Tell, also delivered an

lined the importance of observing women's day. saying it is considered a national holiday in many of the world's countries.

Noting that this day has a special significance, she said there was a growing interest in women's issues in various fields and by the various concerned authorities at the national level, especially hy the Nacional Committee for Women which is chaired hy Princess Basma.

This commission was established in 1992 as a forum for discussing policies of concern to women, she said.

The celebration, held at the Irbid municipality huilding, included national dances and songs performed hy school children



Lower House Speaker Sa'ad Hayel Srour follow-np committee to the Arab-African

Saturday presides over a meeting of the Parliamentary Dialogue (Petra photo) Jordan to host meeting of Arab-African parliamentarians

emphasis on human rights

and democracy and their im-

elementation in Arah and

African couotries," Mr.

Srour told the Jordan Times.

"Parliamentarians called for

more cooperation and coor-

dination among participating

Only Jordan, Egypt and Sudan representing the Arab

countries attended the one-

day conference which was

countries," he said.

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will bost the seventh meeting of the general assembly of the Arah African Parliameotary Dialogue next year with the participation of 30 countries.

The decision was taken unanimously by participants of the follow-up committee to the Arab-African Parliamentary Dialogue which concluded its meetings here vesterday.

Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'ad Hayel Srour said parliameotarians stressed the need for cooperation and coordination in all fields among Arah and African couotries. "There has been special held at Parliament. African countries included Senegal, Cameroon, Ghana, Burkina Faso and representatives of the general secretariat of the Arab Parliamentary Union as well as

Also on Saturday's agenda was the issue of the poor

the African Parliaments Un-

Arab and African countries and means of reducing their

Participants also discussed the issue of weapons of mass destruction in the region.

Head of the Ghanaian lelegation, Arthur Spico, aid in an interview with Jordan News Ageocy, Petra, that the meeting was a good opportunity for all parties in their efforts to enhance Arab-African cooperation.

tries suffer from the same economic and social prob-lems," be said. "Solutions to these problems might be similar too. And that's why joint efforts on the regional and international arenas · ot

"Arab and African counwould ensure their success.'

By Ian Atalla Special to the Jordan Times AMMAN - "The World Through the Eyes of Women" at Baladna Gallery brings to mind, m an offhand

present truly compelling works, although a print by Mona Saudi and several small

quality. Eye-catchers were rare to find among the rest of the work presented, but a few

Larisa Najjar.

gallery has given them an opportunity" to participate, and to learn from the many other artists' experience and

tions. Our small size should Besides such

ers, and more. Not only would Jordan's

And so, if "The World rated for the artwork which

The exhibit, which opened

Voting begins in Bihar; 13 die as 3 Indian states count votes

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Thirteen people were killed in election-related violence as three Indian states with 100 million voters began counting ballots that could help determine the fate of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's government. A magistrate and his driver

were killed when a bomb exploded as violence-marred assembly elections began in the eastern state of Bihar.

They were killed immediately and a policeman was injured when the bomb went off in a small village, local agencies reported. Anthorities accused extremists who have boycotted the assembly elections.

On Friday, five people assembling a bomb were killed when the device went off in a remote village in Bihar. Elsewhere in the state, activists from rival political parties exchanged gunfire and threw bombs at each other Saturday in the town of

Gaya. Armed men ransacked

four voting booths in the village of Makhdoompur, authorities said. Six people were killed in the sonthern state of Andhra Pradesh Friday, including three who died when a bomb exploded in a bouse in a small village. The state held the second and final phase of local, or Panchayat Raj, elec-

Dozens of people bave been killed in violence linked to elections in seven states, including more than 40 in Bihar in recent weeks.

Last mouth Mr. Rao's Congress Party won elections to keep a fragile grip on power in the small northeastern state of Manipur, the only state among six holding assembly polis which has announced the results.

State elections have no direct impact on the composition of parliament in the federal capital New Delhi. But Mr. Rao's authority

was shaken when Congress suffered defeat in three of four states that held assembly elections late last year, including his home state of Andhra Pradesh.

Following the reversals, Congress dissident Arjun Singh, one of Mr. Rao's main rivals, quit the cabinet in protest and accused the prime minister of ignoring the poor and minority Mus-lim, seen as traditional Congress supporters.

Mr. Singh has since been

touring the country, rallying In the latest round of polls,

Congress faced an uphill battle in several states. But the party's expecta-

Party suffers defeats in crutions have been so reduced that Mr. Rao could emerge

with only bruises from the last major set of state polls before general elections next

Congress was expected to retain power in the small northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, which held

its assembly polls Saturday.
Vote counting hegan
Saturday in three of the biggest states which together have more than 100 million voters - Gujarat, Orissa and Maharashtra, India's richest

All three states voted either last month or earlier in March but held off counting until Saturday. A trend in results was expected to emerge later in the day but the final tally would not come before Sunday, officials said.

In Bombay, the capital of Maharashtra and India's financial hub, police stood guard outside each of the city's 34 counting centres, shooting away bystanders. Nearly 20,000 police and

paramilitary forces were de-ployed to maintain order in the state, authorities said. Business leaders said Saturday, the Indian government will pursue free-market reforms initiated in 1991 even if the ruling Congress (1)

cial state elections. Businessmen and financial analysts sought to allay fears that the liberalisation policy could slow down if the Congress lost the polls held in February and March.

There will be no setback to the reforms even if the Congress loses," said Dîlip Shah, commercial director of the U.S. pharmaceutical firm Pfizer, echoing a confident mood in the country's financial capital here.

He said a multi-party consensus seemed to be building around the reforms, initiated by Mr. Rao after he took office in 1991, although opposition parties initially called them a sell-out to international aid agencies.

"Even opposition parties which have recently taken power in states are going all out in selling state-owned companies," Mr. Shah said. 'The reforms have

gathered a momentum of their own and they cannot be stopped," he added. The free-market reforms came under a cloud after the Congress suffered a rout in two major states in December when the party sought a vote in favour of the liber-

alisation policy. Mr. Rao later claimed the reforms had nationwide backing. But he did not make them an election issue while campaigning in the state of Maharashtra, Gujarat and

Babioo Singh (left), an opposition candidate to Indian Prime Minister Navashuha Rao's Conlate to symbol, a table fan, in the capital of the Con-eastern state of Bihar (AFP photo) gress (I) Party, campaigns with his election

Lone gunman kills minister in Burundi voy to Burundi, Ahmedou

BUJUMBURA (R) - A lone gunman killed the energy and mines minister of ethnically-explosive Burundi Saturday, witnesses said.

The minister, Ernest Kabushemeye, was killed in the capital Bujumbura. "He was shot dead and his body-guard was injured," said a

diplomatic source The minister's bloodied corpse was left lying in his car as police cordoned off streets around the scene of the attack between the French and U.S. cultural centres in the heart of the city.

Mr. Kabushemeye, a Hutu, was a prominent leader in the governing coalition of the majority Hutu-led gov-

United Nations special en-

PRETORIA (AFP) — Win-

nie Mandela, estranged wife of Nelson Mandela, held

talks with Deputy President Thabo Mbkei lasting into the

early bours of Saturday over

her controversial West Afri-

can trip, the SAPA news agency said.

Mrs. Mandela, whose post

as deputy minister of arts,

culture, science and technol-

ogy is reportedly on the line,

enfuriated President Mande-

la when she embarked on the

trip after he expressly

ordered her to stay home and

attend an important meeting

WASHINGTON (AFP) -

Michael Carns, the retired

U.S. Air Force general

nominated to head the CIA.

Ould Abdallah, condemned the killing.
"My first reaction of

course is one of sadness. 1 knew this minister and pity his family," Mr. Ould Abdallah told Reuters.

"I sympathise with the prime minister who doesn't need this violence in broad daylight in the capital."

The new prime minister, Antoine Nduwavo. appointed after protracted wrangling between Hutu and Tutsi-led parties only filled his last ministerial vacancy Monday before chairing a first cabinet meeting.

The motives for Mr. Kabushemeye's killing was unknown, and officials said an investigation into the

Winnie Mandela and Mbeki meet

She returned to South

of his African National Con-

Africa five days early last Thursday after police claimed

she had used her government

income housing contract to a

firm in exchange for financial

SAPA said the one-on-one

meeting, at Mr. Mbeki's

office here, lasted two-and-a-

porters by leaving by a back entrance, while Mr. Mbeki

declined to speak to the

Mrs. Mandela dodged re-

position to award a low-

gress (ANC).

half bours

attack had already been laun-

Hutu President Sylvestre Nubantunganya flew out of Bujumbura Friday to attend the U.N. poverty summit in Copenhagen.

The streets remained calm immediately after the killing but Burundi has been battered by ethnic violence between Hutus and Tutsis since its first popularly-elected President Melchior Ndadaye was murdered in October

Ten Hutu gunmen were killed in an attack on paramilitary police in Cibitoke province, bordering Zaire and Rwanda in the northwest of the Central African country. Wednesday, the army said.

His spokesman, Thami

Ntenteni, said he was not informed of the content of

the discussions but said Mr.

"This is not a personal

Before the meeting,

another spokesman for Mr. Mbeki, Ricky Naidoo, said

the two would only discuss the West African trip and not

prepared to intervene in a

police investigation.

matter, it is a political one,"

relaxed.

China opens 1st school for love

BEUING (R) — China's first Yiyun, a teacher at the school and a renowned expert on

Cathedral stands and watches as

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WINCHESTER, England (AP) — Winchester Cathedral, you let her down. Emily Edmondstone, 11, wants to join the 22 boys in the centuries-old choir at the famed 900-year-old cathedral in southern England, but has been barred from anditions because she's a girl. Her mother, Jocelyn, said Friday that she was considering a legal appeal based on British laws against sex discrimina-tion. "My daughter is an all round musical child just like the boy choristers," she told Britain's Press Association. The dean of Winchester Cathedral, the very Reverend Trevor Beeson, a staunch supporter of women priests in the Anglican Church, said the problem was not Emily's sex. It was that the choir was run by a local .hoy's hoarding school. "There is a possibility of hav-ing a girls' choir drawing from day schools in the city but we can't pursue that now because it costs time and money neither of which we have," Fr. Beeson said. That wasn't good enough for Emily, who was circulating a peti-tion. "I just want to be given a chance," she said, "I think

glant' on beancurd. noodles

SHANGHAI (AFP) — A 13-year-old girl in China's Henan province has shocked her parents by growing to a height of 1.98 metres (six feet, six inches) and weighing in at 120 kilogrammes 264 pounds), a report said. Zhang Xilian's stature has gained her the reputation of being a local "giant" after growing to her size on a steady diet of beancurd and noodles, the Liberation Daily said. A doctor at a Shanghai hospital said the average height for a girl of Zhang's age was 1.4 metres (four feet, seven inches). According to the report, Zhang would consume 3.5 kilogrammes (7.7 pounds) at each meal, adding that she was "fond" of starchy foods. When she was three years old, she had already reached the height of 1.20 metres (three feet, 11 inches), it said.

Bangladesh delays Nasreen trial again

DHAKA (AFP) -- The blasphemy trial of writer Taslima Nasreen was give a new delay Saturday, this time by 35 days after the prosecution said it has not yet received government approval to proceed. Magistrate A.K.M Kama-

luddin reset the hearing for April 15, the sixth postponement since charges were filed in November 1993 against the writer, now in exile in

Public Prosecutor Abdur Razzaque Khan said only

that "procedural tangles" had held up government approval.

In early January, a twomember High Court bench rejected a request by Nasreen's lawyer that her trial in absentia for blaspheming Islam be dismissed.

But the judges ordered the magistrate to halt action until he prosecutors got formal approval for the trial from the Home Ministry. The magistrate Saturday

ruled that if prosecutors failed again to produce the "sanction," then he would consider a stay order.

Nasreen, who was in Copenhagen this weekend for the U.N. Summit on Social Development, fled Bangladesh because of threats to her life by several Muslim fundamentalist groups. She has been accused by the Dhaka authorities of "hurting religious sentiments" of Muslims in this largely Islamic

Belarus force reduction Helms: suspension worries West **Aristide** VIENNA (AFP) - A deci- resentatives of the 30 treaty creating arus to stop des- countries monitor the implementation of the accord, called the decision "very worrying," as it could create a

The treaty signatories are already under strong pressure from Russia to modify the terms of the accord to allow it to transfer more troops to the Caucasus where Moscow is fighting a separatist rebellion in Chechenya.

Nov. 17 is the deadline for the states concerned to have cut their forces to the levels laid down in the treaty, and the diplomat said that so far Belarus had met its obliga-tions at each stage of the reduction process.

Among Minsk's targets were to cut the number of its tanks from 3,400 to 1,800 in the five-year period, and its other armoured vehicles from 3,824 to 2,600.

The Western diplomat said that Belarus' treaty partners had not reacted favourably to the request for a special fund, confirming a statement by Mr. Senko that Western countries were affaid that others would also demand financial aid.

Mr. Senko said Thursday that NATO ambassadors had insisted that Belarus respect a treaty they considered to be the backbone of security in Europe.

system

The chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee asserted Thursday that President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has established Cuban-style "vigilance committees" to keep watch on political opponents.

his regime's principal instrument of surveillance.

elections in June and for presidential elections in De-

cember In addition, he said, Mr. Aristide has "nine or 10" political parties represented in his cabinet as part of a

criticism from bis traditional supporters for reaching out to all elements of Haitian society and all across the Haitian political spectrum,

to Haiti eats up 15 per cent of the State Department's assistance budget for the Western hemisphere even though only one-10th of 1 per cent of the hemisphere's population is Haitian. He also said Mr. Aristide has replaced half the coun-

try's elected mayors with his

own supporters.

countries of the Third World, of which several important states were singled out for

Angolan rebels agree to withdraw troops

LUANDA, Angola (AP) — UNTTA rebels have agreed to withdraw their troops from a volatile northern region, ending a three-week impasse that was stalling a peace deal for this African nation, the U.N. representative said

Thursday.
Alouine Blondin Beye told reporters rebel chief Ionas Savimbi had assured him Wednesday at a meeting in central Angola that UNITA troops were withdrawing from the northern City of Uige to nearby Negaie, ending weeks of contention and concerns that the peace deal signed last November was about to go off the rails.

Mr. Beye quoted Mr. Savimbi as saying withdrawal began on March 6 but gave no confirmation that U.N. observers had confirmed that. He said Mr. Savimbi had accepted "without condition" a disengagement plan penned by government.

The Malian also said Mr. Savimbi had pledged U.N. military observers access to rebel-controlled areas and had agreed to a demining plan that should clear the way for a 7,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping force to cement peace after 19 years of civil war.

Speaking to reporters after meeting with a joint commission of UNITA, government and U.N. military officials and U.S., Portuguese and Russian diplomats, Mr. Beve said that 468 of the 533 military observers slated for duty in Angola had already arfor CIA chief withdraws tus of the nomination based on information developed in the course of the FBI investigation of General Carns,'

has asked President Rill Clinton to withdraw his name from consideration, administration officials said Friday. Mr. Clinton was expected

to name Deputy Secretarey of Defence John Deutch to head the espionage agency. Gen. Carns asked that his nomination be withdrawn because of a dispute over a former household employee, an administration official

The official said Mr. Clinton was expected to announce Saturday that he would honour Gen. Carns' request and name Mr. Deutch, who had previously been under consideration for the position.

especially Cuba, had tried to

hamper the work of the com-

mission by raising a plethora

Curbs on individual free-

doms were being excused by

the plea for the right to

national development, Mr.

Baum said. But he noted that

tbe 1993 Vienna buman

rights summit had excepted

this right, while ruling that

other human rights, such as a

fair trial and freedom from

torture or summary execu-

tion, were universal princi-

states should acknowledge

their own faults and encour-

age dialogue. "We should be

more critical of ourselves, ex-

plain that we are not judges

and admit that we have our

own problems such as rac-

commission's rapporteur on

summary executions, Bacre

Wally Ndiaye of Senegal, had

complained that he had been

denied access to prisons in

the United States where teen-

In one such example, the

Mr. Baum said European

ples regardless of culture.

of procedural points.

Mr. Clinton spoke with Gen. Carns by telephone Fri-day night, the White House said, adding that the administration would have more to say on the matter Saturday.
"We are evaluating the sta-

White House spokesman Michael McCurry said.

A Vietnam veteran, the 57-year-old Carns se.ve.1 as vice chief of staff of the air force until his retirement last year. He played a leading role in directing the air war against Iraq during the 1990-91 Gulf War.

The previous Central Intelligence Agency director, James Woolsey, abruptly resigned in December after two stormy years in the post. The troubled leadership

transition comes amid calls for reform of the CLA in the wake of the arrest a year ago of Aldrich Ames, a career CIA agent who spied for Moscow since 1985.

Earlier Friday, the White House confirmed that Mr. Clinton had signed a con-fidential order that sets priorities for U.S. intelligence in its efforts to counter threats posed by the post-

A commission has been set up to oversee intelligence gathering but its mandate is separate from another working group set up to examine the mandate of the CIA and other intelligence agencies.

White House spokesman Michael McCurry did not give details on the priority list but noted that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and international crime were among the targeted threats.

He said the list was "to reflect the new threats that are more urgent in the postcold war world."

"There are certain types of threats that are now reduced. specifically the nuclear threat," Mr. McCurry said. "It's important in a time of limited resources for the president and his policymakers to give clear priorities to the intelligence community so that they can gather the type of information that will help them make the right decisions," Mr. McCurry

North-South confrontation over rights worries West ing mistrust in developing

GENEVA (AFP) - Renewed North-Sonth confrontation over human rights replacing the East-West tension of the cold war caused alarm among Europeans in the just-ended 51st session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

The session was also marked by an inprecedented criticism of three of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security

Moscow went along with a statement condemning the brutality of its intervention in the rebel Republic of Chechenya, Washington did not oppose a resolution being unsuccessfully put by Cuba on the persistence of racism in the United States, and Beijing for once failed to prevent itself being dragged into the limelight.

But German delegation head Gerhard Baum voiced the prevalent concern at the growing opposition between Western democracies and

age killers were being kept on countries of the real intendeath row to be executed tions of the West," he said. once they reached the age of He told journalists that some states like India, and The various blocs grouping

the 53 members of the commission became evident during the debates, with the principle one being the European Union, which generally attracted support from the United States, Eastern Europe and Latin America. China called for Third World solidarity in its first

unsuccessful attempt since 1990 to prevent a vote on a critical motion brought by Western nations and Japan, and saw the resolution fail by one vote. Chinese ambassador Jin

Yingijian accused Europeans and Americans of trying to stop China's economic development and dismember the country. African countries, claiming

that Nigeria's national unity was at stake, were prominent in bringing down a French resolution criticising the military government in Abuja for executions, arbitrary arrests and curbs on trade unions and the press.

Commission. Chairman Musa Bin Hitan of Malaysia

commented at a press conference Friday: "I'm not pre-pared to say there is a rigid North-South divide, but there is always an undercurrent of differences.' He said it was good that no

country, even a permanent member of the Security Council, should be above the "Human rights have be-

come the focus of attention of the world," Mr. Bin Hitan said, adding, "this is the best thing that has bappened to the international commun-

According to Mr. Bin Hitan, "the Commission on Human Rights has become, after the Security Council, the most 'political' organisation of the U.N. Human Rights are fashionable." But he warned, "We are

suffering from our popularity... the Commission could soon be buried alive" under the weight of its bureaucracy. Mr. Bin Hitan noted that this year's three month session had seen 117 resolutions or decisions adopted, and more than 8,000 pages of documents printed and translated in each of the five working languages.

World's largest record store opens in Tokyo

TOKYO (R) - Hundreds of

nusiness

Japanese music lovers queued in the rain as the world's largest record store opened in Tokyo. At 5,000 sq metre (50,000 sq feet), Tower Records' new branch in the Shibuya entertzinment district is nearly half as big again as the previous biggest, an HMV store in London's Oxford Street, accordingly to the Guinness Book of Records. Like other foreign re-cord stores in Japan, Tower has taken advantage of the bigb yen, only 91 were needed to buy a dollar on Friday, to import cheap compact discs, mainly from the United States. It sells these for several hundred yen (several dollars) less than domestically produced CDs. However, top 40 alhums, advertised as special bargains, still cost 1,790 yen, the equivalent of \$19.70. "Over-all, our strong points in the market are the environment we create for people shopping for music and onr prices," said Keith Cahoon. Tower's managing-director for the Far East. "Maybe the number-one strong point is our selection." Tower has half a million items on sale in the nine-storey store, including imported books and magazines.

school offering courses which discuss sex and love ethics and give advice to the jilted has opened in Beijing, state media said Saturday. "love is an art. It involves certain skills, and especially com-municative skills," the officials China Daily quoted Xia Xiaoming, associate professor of sociology at Beijing Technical University, as saying. The school, which opened Friday, is the first of a chain that the Beijing Municipal Women's Federation and the Beijing Marriage and Family Becaute Society. Mbeki had been "calm and and Family Research Society plan to set up, Xinhua News Agency said. "We wish the youngsters less pain and re-gret in their romance," Chen family and marriage.

the kickback allegations as the deputy president "is not

it is unfair girls are not given the same opportunity to

sing. Girl grows into

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troying armaments in defiance of its obligations under the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty has worried other treaty partners, a Western diplomat said Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko said that Minsk could no longer afford financially to scrap the tanks, combat aircraft and other weapons it is supposed to under the 1990 treaty. Mr. Lukashenko, quoted by the Russian Interfax News

Agency, called for an international fund to be set up to assist, saying he had discussed the problem with European Union leaders in Brussels last weekend.

But the Belarus president also said that his country, one of the most peaceful in Europe," was anxious about having a common border with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) once other eastern European countries join that alliance. However Foreign Minister Vladimir Senko insisted later that the decision was purely financial, and did not mean Minsk was pulling out of the treaty. He said that Belarus,

Bielorussia, was "saturated A Western diplomat in

the former Soviet republic of

Vienna, from where the rep-**Premier: Quebec will vote** on independence this year

MONTREAL (AP) — An independence referendum will be held this year as promised, and Quebec voters will be asked to approve total separation from Canada rather than a political association. Premier Jacques

Mr. Parizeau's Parti Ouebecois was elected last year on a platform to take the French-speaking province out of Canada, but opinion polls consistently show support for independence falls short of a majority.

Parizeau said Thursday.

There has been widespread speculation recently that Mr. Parizeau would postpone the referendum or devise a devise luted question on sovereignty that he could be sure to win. "I feel very much convinced, maybe even more so. that it (the referendum must take place in 1995." Mr. Parizeau said Thursday after

returning from a 10-day vacation in Mexico. "The question will be clear and simple and the question will be a winning one." he said.

Mr. Pasizeau said that

while the referendum question would not refer to a political association with the rest of Canada, he has not ruled out the possibility of an economic association. "I don't have a closed mind

on this," he said. A referendum on ''sovereignly-association'' with Canada was defeated in 1980, partly because the question was awkwardly

worded and manys coople. day of the Canadians feel like second-class citizens in their own country, with its English-speaking majority. and feel that independence is the only way to preserve their language and culture.

Cuba-style

WASHINGTON (AP)

Senator Jesse Helms, a conservative Republican and longtime Aristide critic, questioned whether the U.S. military intervention in Hairi was worth the cost, which he projected at \$1.8 billion. The Clinton administration estimates \$1.5 billion, "I don't know of any democratic values that Aristide has ever

demonstrated," Sen. Helms Administration witnesses at a committee hearing didn't respond directly to Sen. Helms' charges that "vigilance committees" are en-forcing Aristide's rule. As described by Sen. Helms, the groups recall the Committees for the Defence of the Revolution in Cuba, which Fidel Castro established in 1960 as

But Strobe Talbott, the State Department's secondranking official as deputy secretary of state, defended Mr. Aristide's democratic credentials. He said the Haitian leader is arranging for legislative and municipal

reconciliation policy.
"He's come under some

Mr. Talbott said. Sen. Helms alleged that aid

"We are aware at mount-

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Girl grows at 'glant' on beancurd noodles

World News



Three agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) (left) re-enact the attack on a U.S. consulate van, at the scene of the incident, in the troubled city of Karachi (AFP photo)

Bhutto holds emergency talks on Karachi killings

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) - Pakistan Saturday effectively blamed India as one of the elements involved in the recent spate of violence to hit

this tormented city.

Meanwhile, officials prepared to send the bodies of two slain U.S. government employees home and urged American citizens to increase security precautions.

At a funeral procession for victims of Friday's bomb and gun attack on a Shiite Muslim mosque thousands of wailing monrners condemned the government, burned vehicles and fired automatic weapons.

Chaos ensued and people ran for safety and young children hurled stones at nearby police. There were no immediate reports of injury.

'The forces of sectarianism, ethnicity and narcotics have combined to create terrorism and harassment in the city," Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said after a lengthy meeting with top government officials in Karachi.

Ms. Bhutto and other top officials accused India as one of the groups involved in the terrorism, though they did not mention the country by

"There is the foreign hand," in the terrorism, Ms. Bhatto told journalists from the steps of the state guest

bouse, a white colonial structure in downtown Karachi. "We have caught people who were trained overseas," she said. This was a clear reference to India and In-

DUBLIN (Agencies) — Ger-

ry Adams, president of the IRA's political wing Sinn

Fein, denied Saturday that he

tween Washington and Lon-

formation Secretary Hussein Haqqani said: "I think anybody with any intelligence knows who is setting out to destabilise Pakistan.

He said the terrorist attacks were a reaction to the Muslim secessionist movement in Indian-beld Kashmir. India rontinely accuses Pakistan of fomenting violence in its troubled state.

"Karachi does not have a sectarian problem. What we have is foreign-trained saboteurs," Mr. Haqqani

Friday's mosque attack targetted Pakistan's minority Shiite Muslims. Twelve people were killed and 28

At the funeral for those killed hundreds of mourners wailed and chanted "death to Benazir Bhutto." Gunshots rang out and

angry youths set fire to three vehicles parked near the mos-Police sharpshooters stood

guard on buildings lining the two kilometres (1.2 mile) route between the mosque and the graveyard.
Friday's mosque attack came two days after gunmen killed two U.S. government

employees in a hail of bullets

as their van stopped at a

traffic light at a busy intersection. There was no evidence linking the bombing to the killing of the two Americans. But both were horrific examples of the surging violence that has convulsed Karachi

issued a statement saying its

group was willing to discuss

with British ministers the tak-

ing out of service of Irish

and threatens to undermine Ms. Bhutto's government.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack, although many people are blaming the militant Sunni Muslim group, known as the Guardians of the Friends of the Prophet.

At least 1,000 people have been killed in attacks in Karachi in the past year. Most assaults are boldly executed during the day by gunmen who seldom bother to conceal their identities. Arrests are rare.

Ms. Bhutto said Saturday that her government would respond "ruthlessly" if oecessary to end the violence that has plagued Karachi.

The government would "respond in a ruthless manner if ruthlessness was required," she said. Narcotics dealers were also

financing sectarian groups and "hiring guns to create fear" and to deflect pressure which her government was applying against them, she

Ms. Bhutto said an extradition treaty signed with Egypt to turn over militants, had resulted in militant organisa-tions trying to destabilise the situation.

"At the time of the Afghan War, the entire West landed here and helped create holy warriors, whose joh it was to go into Afghanistan and fight a boly war (against the Comrnment in Kabul backed by the Soviet army) and when that holy war ended (in 1989), the West pack-

like Pakistan, Egypt, Algeria and others to deal with warriors that had been trained and now wanted "new wars to fight," Mr. Bhntto said, adding "we must all unite to combat militancy and terror-U.S. Ambassador to Pakis-

ed its bags and left," she said. The West left countries

tan John C. Monjo said Americans had been advised to exercise caution but denied reports that U.S. nationals living in Karachi had been asked to leave.

"Heightened security measures are in place and will remain in effect for the forseeable future," he said

U.S. investigators Saturday probed the killings of the two American consulate

Witnesses said police cordoned off the main road where Wednesday's ambush of a consulate van took place to let Federal Bureau of Investigation agents examine

Dozens of passersby shouted anti-American slogans as the investigators, guarded by police in at least 16 vehicles, used measuring tapes and cameras to gather evidence.

"They close the road for hours and give the citizens a hard time just because two American dogs are killed," dozen people are killed daily in Karachi and the government does not care

No arms deal with Clinton — Sinn Fein's Adams

Republican Army arms used had struck a deal with President Bill Clinton on IRA in the guerrillas' 25-year war arms to win a U.S. visa and against British rule of Northern Ireland. the lifting of a fund-raising ban in America. The Sinn Fein president said Saturday the statement There should be no sense was not issued in response to

of this trip to the United States being any part of behind-the-door deals," Mr. any bargaining with Mr. Clin-Adams told a news confer-"The president did the ence before flying to the United States for a 10-day trip that has strained relations be-

right thing in order to build confidence in the peace process," Mr. Adams said. He told reporters that any money he raised in the United States would be used to

He was responding to media reports that Mr. Clinfund political activities there. ton had granted him a visa, The visit will raise Mr. Adams's international profile lifted a ban on fund-raising and invited him to a White at a time when Britain has yet House St Patrick's Day party to enter ministerial level in exchange for a Sinn Fein talks with Sino Fein. commitment to discuss de-

London says it has to be satisfied that an IRA ceasefire last September is perma-

Britisb officials are dis-mayed at Mr. Clinton's gesture, which also puts London out of step with its Irish partners in a drive to find a lasting political settlement to the Northern Ireland conflict.

Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew was fuming Friday about Mr. Clinton's decision to let Mr. Adams tout for funds. "I think people here will be

dismayed that Mr. Adams who, they recall, carried the coffin of somebody who was responsible for the Shankill bombing about 18 months ago, is now being treated like a perfectly ordinary leader of a constitutional party," Sir Patrick said.

Mr. Adams briefly carried the coffin of Irish Republican Army (IRA) bomber Thomas Begley, who died planting a bomb that killed nine other people and injured 59 in a fish and chip sbop in the Shankill Road, in the Protestant heartland of Belfast, in October 1993.

Sir Patrick added in an interview with the BBC: "We actually happened to have sustained something like 3,000 murders in the course of the last 25 years of terrorism.

"It concentrates your mind when it's your own country. your own countrymen and women who have suffered such attacks."

Sir Patrick told the BBC Friday that Washington had "made a mistake" in relaxing long-standing conditions imposed on Mr. Adams without any "return" from Sinn Fein which is pushing for a seat at constitutional negotiations on the future of Northern Ireland in the light of the ceasefire declared by the IRA last September.

Italy's Popular Party Congress opens

ROME (Agencies) — The Italian Popular Party's (PPI) national executive meeting got underway here Saturday with acrimony in the air in a left-tight clash over its newlyforged alliance with Silvio Berlusconi.

commissioning IRA arms.

On Thursday Mr. Adams

PPI leader Rocco Buttiglione outraged party leftwingers when he signed a deal with Mr. Berlusconi's Freedom Alliance coalition Thursday.

Former party president Rosa Russo Jervolino set the tone for what promised to be a turbulent meeting when she announced that party leftwingers would present a document underlining that the Buttingliooep Berlusconi accord "was nul and void."

She accused Mr. Buttiglione of being allied with someone (Berlusconi) who was "inciting revolt against institutions" and "affirming the need to destroy the image of the head of state." Oscar

Luigì Scalfaro. Mr. Berlusconi hailed the deal as the birth of a new. strong moderate centre in Italian politics, on the lines of the ruling Christian Democratic Union in Germany.

The PPI party's leftwing opposes any agreement with the media magnate and former prime minister, and the secrecy surrounding the pact. which they say went ahead without the agreement of the party authority.

The PPI leader has said he will resign if he does not win approval. He could carry the majority, as he has done in previous meetings, but any vote on the issue could split the party, with a significant minority leaving the PPI to join up with forces on the

centre-left. The PPI took 11 per cent of the vote in last March's general election, which swept Mr. Berlusconi to power, before he was forced to step down when his coalition government collapsed in Decem-

Italy's general election campaign effectively opened Friday when the ex-Communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) gave its blessing to economist Romano Prodi's bid to become

prime minister.

meeting in Rome and said he believed the Bologna professor could give Italy five years of stable government. "We could reasonably have advanced a left-wing candidacy," Mr. D'Alema told Mr. Prodi. "Today we confirm to you that we do not want to do that."

Mr. Prodi, a Roman Catholic and former chairman of Italy's huge IRI state holding company, announced last month that he planned to head a centre-left alliance opposed to media magnate Silvio Berlusconi in an election expected within a few

months. Mr. Prodi will take his message to the people next week when he sets off from the southeastern town of Lecce in a second-hand coach to tour the country.

Most political commentators believe that a general election is inevitable in Italy, either in June or October.

Mr. Berlusconi Friday accused Prime Minister Lamberto Dini of hoodwinking him by adding pension re-PDS leader Massimo form to a legislative agenda D'Alema stood shoulder to which he said had originally shoulder with Mr. Prodi at a been a three-point package. | a nuclear reactor,

\$1.5b aid sought for republics

WASHINGTON (AP) The Clinton administration is asking Congress for as much as \$1.5 billion in aid to Russia and other republics of the former Soviet Union in the

year beginning Oct. 1. Another \$371 million is Colonel Gary Coward said being sought for dismantling nuclear weapons in the area,

The figures emerged from testimony before the foriegn operations panel of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee, congressional aides said. It was uoclear how recep-

tive the Republicandominated Congress will be to the requests or what conditions the Republicans will seek for the allocations. Many lawmakers have beeo strongly critical of administration requests for money to help Russia, largely because of its help to Iran in building

surrender of Chechen towns SHALI, Russia (AFP) artillery from the nearby Russian forces have threatened to storm the three

major separatist strongholds ruptico. in eastern Chechenya if forces loyal to Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev do not surrender by Sunday, Chechen fighters returning

They said the ultimatum, issued early Saturday to fighters in Gudermes, concerned Shali, the town Chechen separatists now regard as their capital, Argun and Gurdermes.

from the front said.

Shali was cerily silent Saturday, as fighters here awaited the next Russian

move.
The three towns - Shali, Gudermes and Argun have been the prime targets of assault by Russian forces since they completed their encirclement of the capital Grozny in February.

But inside the Chechen command compound here there was little sense of

The commander of Mr. Dudayev's forces, Aslan Maskhadov, said that he had not been informed of the ultimatum through official channels.

"We've heard so many of these ultimatums. We don't pay attention to them," he said, vowing that his forces would "continue to fight as long as we're here, obvious-

But Mr. Maskhadov offered no other explanation for the strange silence that hovered over Shali Saturday morning, where Russian front has been heard for weeks almost without inter-

Russians give ultimatum on

The two sides, who have been maintaining contacts to arrange small-scale exchanges of war prisoners, appeared to have lost touch with one another.

Mr. Maskhadov told a group of Russian soldiers' mothers that he had not heard from the Ingush mediators for several days. Representatives of Ing-

ushetia, a republic which borders on Chechenya to the west, had been travelling back and forth to Shali regularly, exchanging informa-tion with both sides. We gave them our list of

prisoners. Then they disappeared. Until they return there is nothing we can do,"
Mr. Maskhadov told the mothers. There are about 10 Russian

mothers now living in Shali. Some of them have waited here for several weeks for information about their own sons and about Chechen prisoners held on the Russian side in hopes that a prisoner exchange can be arranged to release their sons.

Mr. Maskhadov, who represented the Chechens at ceasefire talks in mid-February, reaffirmed his position that no meaningful peace talks could take place as long as the Russian side refuses to meet directly with Mr. Dudayev.

But there remain important military matters, such as war prisoners and the ex-

change of dead and wounded, that could benefit from a reopening of lower level negotiations, he said.

The Russian forces have been positioned outside Argun for several weeks, and more recently have moved into positions around Shali and Gudermes, from where they have pounded Chechen positions with constant artillery fire, backed up by planes and helicopters.

The Russians last Sunday attacked Dzhalka, a little village on the road linking Argu and Gudermes, which the Russians must cut before any attack on Argun.

Chechen troops repulsed an attack by Russian tanks and assault troops on the towns of Dzhalka and Argun. a few kilometres east of Grozny, Friday, a Chechen government spokesman said.

The "massive offensive" had involved warptanes, tanks and troops, spokesman Movladi Udugov said, but the Chechens now believe that attack was the prelude to a much greater one yet to

Russian troops and tanks moved into the small Caucasus republic on Dec. 11 to restore order," but are still locked in fighting the forces loyal to Dudayev who is now calling on his mainly Muslim republic to wage a "holy war" against Moscow.

After three months, Russian forces have succeeded only in taking one major town, the devastated capital Grozny, amid high-intensity bombing that has severely

damaged the territory's main

towns. Military experts think the Russian Armed Forces' campaign against separatists in Chechenya has been a dismal failure, according to a new poll, Interfax News Agency

reported Saturday. The poll, taken by the Security of the Nation group, found that 35 per cent of the academics and other experts questioned believed the three-month-old campaign was "extremely ineffective," 22.5 per cent thought it "tantamount to a defeat," and 20 per cent "ineffective."

Seventy per cent of respondents said they disapproved of the war.

A majority, 54.5 per cent, said the Defence Ministry should be run by a civilian minister, while 32 per cent said it should remain in military hands.

Seventy five per cent said the armed forces should answer directly to the presi-

The poll was taken among more than 50 experts, including 109 professors and 36 graduates of science.

Opinion polls consistently show that a majority of Russians oppose the war.

Last month, a poll taken in Moscow by the private television station NTV found that 53 per cent of people thought Defence Minister Pavel Grachev should resign.

Security of the Nation is a group of military specialists affiliated to the Realists' Club, a centre-left think

Russian leaders still face problems of perestroika

MOSCOW (R) — Ten years to the day after Mikhail Gorbachev became Soviet Communist Party chief, Kremlin leaders are still struggling with the problems unleashed by his reforms.

Mr. Gorbachev, elected party general secretary by the politburo on March 11, 1985. launched' perestiblika" (restructuring) and glasnost (openness) policies to reform the Soviet Union. In power until the end of

1991, he presided over the collapse of the Soviet Union and of the Communist system. Since then, living standards for most Russian citizens have fallen and organised crime has spread into almost every aspect of life. "So much more bitter was the disappointment because

he did not bring about the changes that the majority expected," conservative parliamentarian Sergei Baburin was quoted as saying by ITAR-TASS news agency.

Still seen as a hero in the West, Mr. Gorbachev is regarded by many in Russia as a traitor. Mr. Gorbachev, 64, a frequent critic of President Boris Yeltsin, has indicated he may run next year's presidential elections. Saturday's edition of the hardline conservative

Sovietskaya Rossiya news-

paper called the day he came to power "fateful in the history of the party and the state. But the official Rossiskaya Gazeta said that although some people had begun perestroika as a cosmetic reform, "today's Russian lead-

which in the second half of

the 1980s could only be the

subject of theoretical disumnists. Mr. Yeltsin pressed ahead with liberalisation, although his reforms would not have been possible without peres-

troika.

Mr. Gorbachev's vision of a stable economy is still distant, despite International Monetary Fund Managing Director Michel Camdessus's blessing to a \$6.4 billion standby loan.

Moscow has to commit itself to a stiff austerity programme to speed up reform and curb inflation, which remains stubbornly high at 11 per cent in February after 17.8 per cent in January. "Now is the time to move ahead forcefully to reinforce those gains already made.

The higher inflation is, the

longer the recovery of pro-

duction and living standards is postponed," Mr. Camdessus said in Moscow Friday. Perestroika and especially glasnost permitted unprecedented criticism of the Soviet system and leadership ership is carrying out reforms and freedom of speech.

> tic reforms introduced by Mr. Gorbachev, today's leaders face domestic political turbulence unheard of in Soviet

before.

something Russia never had

Russia's lower house of parliament voted Friday to dismiss Human Rights Commissioner Sergei Kovalyov, a fierce critic of the Chechenya campaign, after conservative deputies accused him of bias and overstepping his man-

It also passed non-binding votes of no confidence in Interior Minister Viktor Yerin and Acting ProsecutorGeneral Alexei Ilvushenko. blamed for not halting the crime wave.

The parliamentary moves followed the March I mafia-1 style murder of television e celebrity Vladislav Listyev." the most prominent victim in s a string of assassinations of r journalists, politicians in 3 Russia's increasingly violent e

Nationalist movements k surfaced under Mr. Gor-10 bachev, who fought to the is end to keep the Soviet Union o

together. Within Russia, the south-ti ern region of Chechenya declared independence in 1991. leading ultimately to the blood war which still continues sporadically after 13 weeks of fighting.

"The tragedy of peres-u troika was that from respect w quoted Mr. Baburin ash saying.

Meanwhile Mr. Gorbachev insisted Thursday he is ready?

ICRC plane fired at as tension mounts in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (AFP) - An soldiers crossing another International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) plane was fired at on landing at Sarajevo Airport Saturday morning and a Bosnian woman interpreter working for the U.N. was seized at

gunpoint by the Serbs.
The ICRC twin-engine turbo-prop plane was hit by one round of gunfire, but was able to take off again for Zagreb after which the airport was closed, U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Major Pierre Chavancy said. The origin of

fire was unknown. Meanwhile, a woman interpreter was seized from a French U.N. armoured vehicle at a Serb checkpoint on the outskirts of Sarajevo, Mr. Chavancy said.

Two French soldiers travelling with her, including a captain, were not detained. There is an increasing pattern of harassment by the Bosnian Serb Army, particularly at checkpoints around Sarajevo," UNPROFOR spokesman Lieutenant-

Such actions were "unacceptable" and impeded the U.N. in its efforts to carry out its mandate, he added.

The woman interpreter's arrest follows that over the past few weeks of two Bosnian journalists and five humanitarian aid workers four French and one American — from Pharmaciens Sans Frontieres (Pharmacists Withour Borders) at Serb checkpoints around the besieged city.

In another incident Saturday morning, the Serbs sought to confiscate flak jackets from a group of U.N.

checkpoint on the way be-. tween Sarajevo and the air-· port.

The soldiers, who were going on leave, refused to hand over the jackets and returned to town. On Thursday, the Serbs

seized 126 flak jackets from a

U.N. truck heading into town from the airport. Serbs are also preventing fuel convoys from reaching Sarajevo and the Muslimheld eastern enclaves of Srebrenica, Gorazde and Zepa, the U.N. said. The near com-

plete blockade of fuel has gone on since March 3. The Serbs have also stopped nearly all medicine supplies from reaching the east-

ern enclaves. The Serbs Saturday threatened to close another checkpoint, near Visoko, northwest of Sarajevo, which would effectively strand a number of U.N. Canadian soldiers inside their territory.

essential personnel from the Serb side of the line, the U.N. said. Meanwhile, fighting picked up Saturday morning in the northwest Bihac enclave with

The Canadian contingent

has evacuated all non-

infantry action near Velika Tension mounted in the pocket after Wednesday's disappearance of General Vlado Santic, commander of the Bosnian Croat militia (HVO) fighting alongside the mainly-Muslim Bosnian gov-

Bosnian army commanders in the Bihac pocket denied involvement in the disappearance after reports said he had been kidnapped by his allies. The Croatian News Agen-

ernment army.

cy (Habena) said the general was abducted by troops under Colonel Hamdija Abdic of the Bosnian govern-

ment army.

An HVO officer was wounded, the agency said Saturday, while Gen. Santic was taken under the pretext that General Atif Dudakovic invited him to a party at the Sedra Hotel," situated in an isolated area 14 kilometres (8

General Dudakovic heads the Bosnian government army's 5th Corps which is fighting alongside HVO forces in the pocket.

Gen. Santic's disappear-

miles) from Bihac.

ance has heightened insecurity throughout the small Croat community living in the pocket. Shots were fired at the HVO headquarters in Bihac late Friday, Habena

A joint commission from the HVO and Bosnian government forces met Saturday to try to shed some light on the affair.

was suspected of cooperating with the Serbs. Meanwhile Danish U.N. soldiers have switched their bicycles for armoured vehicles to patrol a no man's land between Serbs and Croats since the frontline village of

Bosnian sources told

Habena that General Santic

Sunja suddenly became heavily manned with fighters. The increased U.N. security reflects the changed atmosphere following Croatia's decision to cancel the mandate of the 12,000 peacekeeping troops in Croatia effective from April

The ·U.N., international peacemakers and politicians on both sides all fear their

for initiative we were gra-n dually driven towards indi-v vidualism and egoism" TASS n

for a political role in them post-cold war world he-4 helped shape.

departure could end ir another war. For almost a year the Danes at Sunja, 7(1 kilometres southeast of Zag reb, rode around the 1,000

metre wide buffer zone or

But when Serbs and Croat: m

moved their troops into thi m

zone last week to reoccup. I their old trenches and hunk fi ers, the U.N. troops climber t. back into their armoured per av sonnel carriers. The buildup started orci. March 2, when some 40 rebe an Serb soldiers deployed inside the

according to a Danisl-sergeant who did not want to be identified by name. "The next day the Serb moved more men in, an ti then the Croats did thin same," he added, lifting

the U.N.-patrolled zone

ramp to let a Croatian arm is truck into what was just unn b a week ago a no man's land lit 'Our major tried severs' l times to persuade the Serb

to withdraw, but it did no si work," the sergeant said. ork," the sergeant said. sa
A Croatian army office ru said they gave the U.N. tw days to sort things out befor they deployed their troops o March 4.

The move was given urger or cy when they heard Sert of firing up their tank engines i die the village of Volinja, 21 kilometres south of Sunja, id

"We had to protect ou positions and the security c the civilians living here," sai we Josip Pavusek, the spoke fix man for the local Croat Ter, ti ritorial Brigade.
The U.N. said the numbe ob

of small incidents along th line of separation 1.10 kilometres long was increa:

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Chairman of the Board of Directors: MARMOUD AL KAYED Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD Editor-in-Chief: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices: Jordan Press Foundation. University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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Positive developments

THE JULY 1 deadline which Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres agreed on Thursday for holding the much-delayed Palestinian national elections and for the redeployment of Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank in preparation for these elections signals a new opening in the staled Palestinian-Israeli talks. The agreement also promises a new positive spirit that could replace the pessimism that has engulfed the Palestinian-Israeli talks due to Tel Aviv's intransigence and failure to respect the Oslo and Cairo deals.

A prime example of the new spirit that characterised the recent round of contacts between the two parties is the agreement on an immediate opening of a free passage between the Gaza Strip and the autonomous Palestinian enclave of Jericho and the issuance of an additional 4,000 new permits to Palestinian workers

to work in Israel.

There is no doubt that the Palestine National Authority's (PNA) resounding commitment to curtail "terrorism" and allow only licensed guns in the areas under its jurisdiction have given ample evidence that it is doing all it can to meet Israel's security needs. There is not much more that the PNA can do to secure the safety of Israelis without being given added opportunities to consolidate its grip on power and authority in the Palestinian territories. Holding the Palestinian elections after an effective Israeli withdrawal from the affected areas could only lend additional support to the quest for stability and security in the region.

The delay in holding these elections has created enormous obstacles in the face of achieving any progress in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. The failure of Israel to honour its commitments to the Palestinians has threatened the whole peace process with collapse. Fortunately, that has not happened yet and the new agreement offers a glimpse of hope that could save the staggering negotiations. It is Israel which can either keep that hope alive by respecting its promises or let it fade by maintaining its intransigence in dealing with the Palestinians.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily on Saturday commended the Jordanian-American relations which it said were based on mutual respect since the 1950s. These relations, said the paper, have successfully overcome many historical tests. It s expected that His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Washington in the end of March and his meeting with American President Bill Clinton would enhance bilateral relations and protect the two countries' joint interests, said the paper. We also hope that the visit to the Kingdom by American Secretary of State Warren Christopher as part of a regional tour would contribute to the success of the King's summit with Mr. Clinton and consequently support the peace process, the newspaper added. The bistorical friendship ties between the countries make us confident of the ability of the American administration to protect this friendship and to fullfil the requirements sof such a friendship, the paper continued. We are confident that the American decision-making mechanism would not allow internal political factors to undermine the administration's foreign commitments and would not allow harming the credibility of the U.S. at the internationala level and thus shake international confidence in Washington's leading role in the world.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour Arabie daily Saturday dealt with the Ministry of Information's decision to liquidate Sawt Al Shaab newspaper and the banning of two weeklies on temporary basis. Taher Al Adwan asked if that means a confrontation between the press and the government or it is iust a correction of press conditions. He said the press in Jordan works in accordance with a new press and publications law endorsed by the previous Parliament. This law, he said, allowed the press more freedom than can be tolerated by the executive authority, which is the reason why there were complaints of ahusing this freedom by the press. He said there were hopes that the government would stake tangible steps to privatise the official media, including the press agency and the television, in order to make Jordan an Arah and international media centre. Monopolising the mass media is a character of dictatorsbips and thus the government's control of the mass media contravenes the principles of democracy, he said.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Jordan-Israel trade prospects: Reciprocity is not fair

IRRESPECTIVE OF the marginal noise against normalisation of economic relations with Israel, that some ideologists make about it is quite obvious that borders with the Jewish state will soon open for trade exchange. The peace treaty, signed on Oct. 26, requires the removal of all obstacles hindering the free flow of goods between the two countries within six months.

This does not mean only the cancellation of boycott, but

also the conclusion of a trade agreement to facilitate the exchange of commodities before May 1995.

Therefore, the arguments over trade normalisation is simply a waste of time and energy. The only result is that those involved in the arguments will deprive themselves of the opportunity to participate and influence the terms of trade, which will be agreed upon in order to safeguard the best interests of Jordan.

The real question, therefore, is not whether or not we shall trade with Israel, but whether or not this trade will be fair and equitable to Jordan and will not hurt the Jordanian

industrial and agricultural producers by putting them unprepared at a disadvantage.

It is generally known that the trade negotiations between Jordan and Israel are rather tough. It is not advancing smoothly due to the usual Israeli rigidity. Israel, it seems, is not ready to give Jordan meaningful concessions or admit that Jordan is assisted to a weferential treatment insisting. that Jordan is entitled to a preferential treatment, insisting on the principle of reciprocity despite the different circumstances.

It seems at the first instance that reciprocity is fare and just, but it is not so. Jordan is a developing country while Israel is an industrialised state. It is natural that developing economies expect a preferential treatment in the markets

of industrialised and more advanced markets.

Trade exchange based on full customs exemption does not give Jordan any real advantage in the Israeli market because Israel bas free trade area agreements with the European Union (EU) and the United States or North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA). To put Jordan on equal footing with Europe and America does not give Jordan a real opportunity to succeed.

On the other hand, the reciprocal tax exemption is very costly to Jordan, because custom protection is as high as 50 per cent, but it is not that costly to Israel where custom protection is much lower and most trade partners are

exempted of customs anyway.

The exchange of trade without any exemptions means that Jordan will not be able to sell in the Israeli market and compete with European and American tax-exempt products, while Israel will be able to act on equal footing with Jordan's other trade partners.

The only solution is to give Jordan substantial exemptions without insisting on reciprocity, especially when Jordan cannot flood the Israeli market and has no capacity to contribute, under the best of circumstances, more than one or two per cent of the total Israeli imports.

If Israel refused to give Jordan the necessary preferential treatment, then trade between the two countries should be restricted to equal quotas which is the worst form of international trade — Egyptian style. In that case, Israel will not be allowed to export to Jordan more than it imports from Jordan. A clearing account will be conducted by the two central hanks, which should be a self-liquidating account i.e., it cannot be settled except through imports

America's quest for an Islamic policy

By Mushahid Hussein

AMERICAN ATTI-TUDES, official and non-official, towards questions related to Islam now revolve around a campaign that has replaced the oft-cited term "fundamentalism" with the more politically palatable term "terrorism." It is a convenient way of defining the "enemy" more as a security threat than an ideological one. There are three recent pointers to this and, despite official denials, Islam is still perceived as the single most significant "threat" to the United States, and indeed to Western strategie and "civilisational" interests, if rhetorie in the forthcoming French presidential election is any indicator of the European mood.

First there was President Bill Clinton's order of Jan. 24, freezing all assets in the U.S. of a dozen Middle Eastern organisations allegedly engaged in acts of terrorism and making it illegal for them to raise fund or have contributions sent to them from American territory. This followed Jan. 22 bombing at Beit Lid which killed 21 Israelis.

Second, there is the New York trial of the Egyptian cleric, Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, who, along with 11 others, is charged with conspiring to bomb the World Trade Centre in New York in March 1993. The U.S. Justice Department has based its conspiracy case on an old, rarely used sedition law dating back to the American civil war, accusing the 56-year-old blind imam of waging a religious "war of urban terrorism against the U.S." The U.S. prosecution has even branded Abdul Rahman as an "ardent dissenter from modern Islamic thought and practice," implying perhaps that the Clinton administration is in a better position to pass judgement on what constitutes "modern Islamie thought and practice." In its issue of Jan. 22, the Washington Times carried a cartoon offensive to handicapped people and prejudicial to a person facing trial, in which the Sheikh was shown with his blind eye graphically depicted being led

on a leash by a roaring

tiger labelled "terror."
Third, the popular misconception of Islam is evident in the recent controversy over the establishment of a Saudifinanced Muslim school in suburban Washington. The school, which fulfils all legal requirements, is being opposed on such outlandish grounds as that "it could harbour Middle East terrorists" or that its students "may shoot at low-flying aircraft landing and departing from Dulles International Airport, according to a story in the Washington Post.

The credibility gap

In this context of U.S.

policy and perceptions

relating to issues involving Muslims and Islam, it is not surprising that American relations with the Muslim World suffer from a serious credibility gap that is widening as the gulf continues to broaden between U.S. pronouncements and practices. Some examples of this follow. Sudan is constantly derided as a state aiding and abetting 'international terrorism" and it is even listed by the State Department, together with Iran, Iraq. Syria, Libya, North Korea and Cuba, as a "terrorist state." although Sudan fully cooperated with France and the U.S. in the extradition of the famous terrorist Carlos. Furthermore, Syria remains on the list of the State Department's "terrorist states" but the U.S. does not hesitate to enlist Syrian support on behalf of U.S. interests, as was the case in the Gulf war or. more recently, by inviting the Syrian army chief to Washington for talks with his Israeli counter-

While there is considerable U.S. pressure on Muslim countries in the Arab World and outside to renew the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Israel is exempt from such pressures. Contrast this with U.S. attitudes to Iran. which remains an abiding American obsession, not just on account of "radical Islamie fundamentalism, extremism, terrorism," etc. but also due to its newly discovered alleged quest for nuclear weapons. In a wideranging foreign policy speech at Harvard University on Jan. 20, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, said that "the U.S. places the highest priority on denying Iran a nuclear weapons capability."

set for Muslim states even on democracy and human rights, which the U.S. claims to uphold, as is the case with Kashmir, Bosnia, Chechenya or Algeria. In the latter, an Islamist party, which had won a fair and free poll, was denied power hy the military with Washington's concurrence. The former U.S. secretary of state, James Baker, admitted to this donble standard in an interview with the Middle East when he said: When I was at the State Department, we pursued a policy of excluding the radical fundamentalists in Algeria, even though we recognised that this was somewhat at odds with our support of democracy."

There is some evidence that the U.S. administration may be reviewing its policy of hlacking dissident Islamie movements in the Muslim World, It is known, for instance, that it has had discreet political contact with the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) through its emhassy in Algiers. In a recent interview with The New Yorker. Egyptian President Hosni Mnbarak angrily told his American interviewer: "Your government is in contact with those terrorists from the Muslim Brotherhood. This has been done very secretly, without our knowledge at first. You think you can correct the mistakes you made in Iran, where you had no contact with Khomeini before he seized power."

A final illustration comes from the support provided to the Irish Republican Army (IRA) from American soil through Irish orga-nisations like Noraid. This was never made illegal all through the 1970s and '80s, although the IRA engaged in acts of terrorism against a U.S. ally, namely Britain. This never evoked the kind of official U.S. reaction that is evident in the case of the Middle East — a classic example of different stan-

Washington's dilemma

Iran apart, the centrepiece of America's approach to the Muslim World, namely the Israel-Palestine conflict, threatens to unravel as resistance to Israeli occupation in the occupied territories often becomes synonymons among Palestinians with opposition to Yasser Arafat. This dilemma for Washington's Middle East policy was aptly summed up by a Palestinian professor, in a piece entitled "Arafat's Dilemma," in the January 1995 issue of Current History: "Arafat has to serve . two masters: his people and the Israeli government. If he listens too much to the Palestinian people, his credibility will suffer in the eyes of Israel; if he accommodates Israeli desires be will lose his people. and thus his claim to legitimacy. Sooner or later Arafat will have to return to his constituency if he wants to remain in command at home. He has to reclaim his standing among the Palesti-nians. Above all. Arafat has to incorporate Hamas in the Palestine National Anthority. No force can destroy Hamas because Hamas is much more than position group Hamas is a sentiment; it is an index to Palestinian frustration with Arafat's leadership and with Israel's continued attempts to dominate the Palestinians."

For the future, three aspects will be crucial in the formulation and implementation of America's policy towards Islam. First, with a presidential election approaching in 1996, it will be increasingly difficult for U.S. politicians, in and ont of government, to ensure that Israeli interests do not take precedence over U.S. interests in the Muslim World. For instance, in an interview on Jan. 15 with Israeli television, the speaker of the House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, strongly favoured moving the emhassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, which is occupied territory, a move at variance with official U.S. policy. Interestingly. among the mainstream American press, only the Chicago Tribune came out with an editorial criticising what it termed as "Gingrich's dubious overture to Israel," adding, in an in-dictment of U.S. politicians' obsequious record to-wards Israel, that "one suspects, however, that it was not Israel's interests that were uppermost in the Speaker's mind, but his

Second, there is already talk among establishment academics in the U.S. of some sort of an "Islamie domino theory" that, "if we don't stop the Islamists in Algeria, then they'll take over Tunisia, followed by Egypt, followed by Tur-key." It is amazing that such puerile concoctions still have a foothold among Washington policy-makers almost a generation after the collapse of the first "domino theory" in the bat-

tlefields of Indochina, Finally, the greatest challenge to the U.S. in its policy towards Islam is to bridge the yawning chasm between pronouncements and policy on many issues concerning the Muslim World, including terrorism. democracy, buman rights and nuclear weapons. A credible U.S. policy can follow only when there is clarity and consistency on such

Middle East International

An illusion of progress in peace talks

By Patrick Worsnip

OCCUPIED JERU-SALEM - Middle East leaders are creating an appearance of action for U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher as be makes his first tour of the region in three months to get the stalled peace process back on track.

Whether this will result in real moves forward is less certain, but Mr. Christopher, whose relatively lengthy absence from the Middle East was partly dictated by having to deal with a new and hostile Congress, seems to have got one point across.

This is that he cannot keep up last year's schedule of taking a week out of every month to tour the area merely to hear the parties - who have been urgently seeking his return in recent weeks — repeat that their positions are unchanged.

As Mr. Christopher flew in to the region last Wednesday, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were busy repairing some of the damage done to their 1993 peace deal hy their dispute over the Islamic guerrilla threat to Israeli security. In an announcement on Thursday, Israel agreed to a July 1 target date for

agreement on troop redeployment in the West Bank and Palestinian elections, while the PLO made fresh pledges to crack down on the Islamic suicide born-

The same day, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin made a lightning visit to Jordan to brief His Majesty King Hussein in the kind of quick and easy Arab-Israeli contact Washington likes to see. Though U.S. officials de-

nied playing a direct role, the moves enabled them to claim that Mr. Christopher, wbose mission started off in was making headway. "Every time that we have seen (the peace process)

under stress, under pressare, under challenge, there bas always been this clearcut determination to stick with negotiations as a way to solve problems," one official said triumphantly. But questions linger over whether the latest Israel-

PLO accord will really bring the promised troop withdrawals and elections, moves that should have occurred eight months ago. Can it survive another suicide bombing in Israel, and can it reserve the ebbing tide of support among ordinary Arabs and Israelis for a peace that has brought Israelis only new guerrilla outrages and Palestinians just fresh eco-

nomic woes? PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has promised to put guerrillas on trial soon. But some Western diplomats doubt whether he will prosecute any important figures at a time when Israeli troops continue to shoot Palestinians and Israeli settlements in the West Bank continue to expand.

Meanwhile, U.S. officials are trying to tackle the economic problem by re-focusing aid to the Palestinians to produce what they call "visible" progress improved houses, roads and sewers and above all new jobs in the depressed Gaza Strip.

For these officials, and most analysts, see the success of the Israel-PLO deal as central to the entire Middle East peace process, and in particular the chances of hringing in Syria, the key remaining hold-out coun-

Syria may not agree to a
Golan Heights deal with Israel even with an Israeli-PLO settlement. But it almost certainly will not without one, political analysts argue. U.S., Israeli, Palestinian,

Jordanian and Egyptian leaders bave been repeating that time is slipping away for an accord with Syria before campaigning starts for next year's Israeli elections that could hring the hawkish Likud Party to

joined in the chorus, pre-sumably because it fears that to do so would weaken its hargaining position. Some Syrian officials have suggested Mr. Rabin may feel he will do better at the

Minister Shimon Peres commented on Saturday: The Syrians are also beginning to understand that time is running out. I'm not saying this to make an impression. We have 20 months left which are irreplaceable."

for some Syrian gesture when Mr. Christopher visits Damascus in the next few days, notably an agreement to resume direct talks with Israel in Washington which were broken off last December.

LETTERS

Who is in debt to whom?

AT THIS time when Jordanian journalists, academics and prominent political figures are husy denouncing American's "backsliding" on its pledges to reduce Jordanian indebtedness, and calling it "a danger to the peace process," we should ask ourselves whether this is either a truthful or a useful exercise.

The linkage between the Jordanian peace initiative and Jordanian indebtedness was made first by American spokesmen and the American media. It is strange, therefore, to find that those who are today criticising America are echoing an appraisal of Jordan's motives in making peace with Israel, which reduces the event to a sordid transaction for monetary considerations.

Instead of implying that His Majesty King Hussein went to Washington to ask America for money, they should be asking the question "who is in deht to whom?" Jordan's financial indebtedness to the USA, Great Britain, France and other countries is the product of the

accumulated demands on its very limited resources caused by three wars in the region, and three major influxes of displaced persons. Any "comprehensive and lasting peace" in the region

must address this problem, and assign an equitable division of responsibility, moral and financial, between the participants in the Arab-Israeli conflicts of the last 50 years. This includes the international community as well as the Arab states and Israel. In that partition of responsibility, Jordan emerges as a major claimant for reparations for the human and financial burdens it has carried.

Those who claim to represent or to inform Jordanian public opinion should not echo the view of others, but base their opinions on Jordanian realities. Jordan is a creditor, not a debtor on the international scene; and the peace process is not a quid pro quo - peace for pennies - but an irreversible step towards a just and viable resolution of the region's problems.

Cecil Horani,

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

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How Islamist militants put Egypt on trial

Raymond Stock became part of a courtroom drama following the stabbing of an Arab Nobel prize winner

IT IS a long drive from central Cairo to the former military aerodrome at Haikstep. It sits in the desert on the Ismailiyah Road, beyond the last highrise buildings that mark the limits of greater Cairo. Dunes rise across the road from the base, dwarfing its walls. Special huses take visitors several kilometres from the main entrance to the shabby amphitheatre where the Military High Court meets.

These hleak surroundings have been the set for the extraordinary trial of the men accused of last October's murder attempt on writer Naguib Mahfouz, the Arah World's first Nobel faureate in litera-

Haikstep bas become one of the main battlefields in the Egyptian govern-ment's war against Islamist militants, which has claimed more than 640 lives in the last three years. During this period, the authorities have used military tribunals to prosecute civilians accused of terrorism after ordinary courts failed to produce results. Trials and punishments have been swift. The case of those accused of trying to kill Mahfouz, who was stabbed twice in the neck outside his Cairo home on Oct. 14.

was no exception. When the six-week trial ended on Jan. 10, two of the 16 defendants, who faced charges ranging from attempting to kill Mahfouz and plotting against the security of the state, to helonging to the illegal Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group), were given death sentences. Two others received life imprisonment, nine received terms ranging from three to 15 years, and three were

acquitted. Unless President Hosni Mubarak intervenes the two condemned men, Mohamed Nagi Mustafa, 21, an electrical appliance repairman convicted of the actual assault on Mahfouz, and Mohamed Khudayr Al Mahalawi, 23, a student,

face execution by hanging. The murder, three years ago of Farag Foda, a secularist writer and friend of Mahfouz, marked a turn in the war - the killing of intellectuals. Mahfouz had aronsed the militants' wrath with his 1959 novel Awiad Haratina (published in English as Children of Gchelawi).

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Before the Haikstep trial, Nagi had confessed on television that he had stahbed Mahfouz in execution of a death sentence issued in a farwa (religious legal opinion) by Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, now on trial on terrorism conspiracy charges in New

In early 1989, shortly after Ayatollah Khomeini's fatwa against the author Salman Rusbdie, Abdul Rahman condemned Mahfouz for his allegedly blasphemons Gebelawi. Abdul Rahman is said to have declared that if Mahfouz had been punished in 1959, Rushdie would never have published his Satanic Verses in

in spite of the threat, Mahfouz refused police protection. He proved, however, a difficult target. Even though he was 83 in December and sustained serious injuries in the attack, Mahfouz survived

the knifing. That the nearly deaf-andhlind Mahfouz, who walks with a cane, suffers from sugar diabetes and a heart condition, even made it through the operation is a miracle, say his doctors. The impairment of his writing hand was the assailant's symbolic, if Pyrrhie, vic-

Ironically, Nagi, who claimed he had never read any of Mahfouz's work, had difficulty using his left arm during the trial, the result of a police bullet canght during his capture.

His capture came quickly. The speed and range of arrests after the attack raised questions about whether this was just a case of rounding up "the usual suspects."
Yet the contradictory be-

haviour of the defendants before, during and after the trial, and the vagueness of some of the physical evidence, makes it even more difficult to assess their guilt. It is also typical of the bizarre, almost Alice in Wonderland-like connndrum that confronts anyone trying to make sense of events in Egypt.
The clues start the night

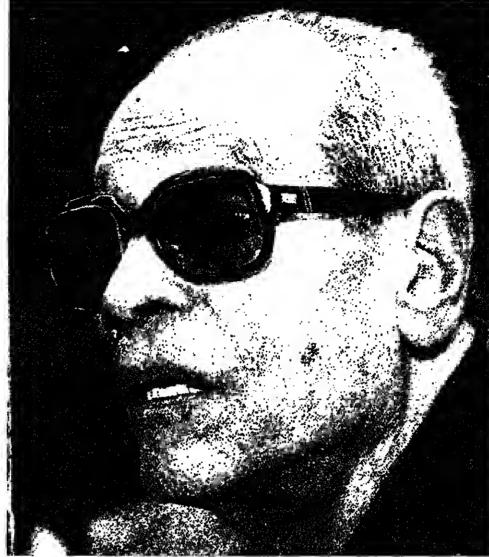
before the attack. At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 13, Mahfouz's sixth Nobel anniversary, two men claiming to be admirers of the writer, bearing flowers and sweets, stopped at this apartment. Mahfonz's wife, Atiyah, told them that Naguib was not home; they could find him the next day at 5 p.m. in his weekly nadwah (literary salon) at Casino Kasr Al-Nil. The men, one dressed as a Gulf Arah, then left. Atiyah later told me, "they had funny-sounding accents for Gulf Arabs.

At 4:50 p.m. on Friday the novelist got into the red 1989 Fiat Regata in which Fathi Hashem, a pharmaceutical marketer, took him each week at the same time from his doorstep to

A LIFE FOREVER CHANGED: Nobel Laurente Naguib Mahfouz, who was stabbed outside his Cairo home on Oct. 14, now lives in a "fortress" with security people accompanying

him on all his moves

(File photo)



dressed young man approached from the foot-path nearby. The affable Mahfouz, unable to see who it was, offered the vaguely human shape his hand through the open car window. Instead of shaking it, the presumed well-wisher stabbed Mahfouz twice in the neck.

Hashem chased the assailant but remembering the wounded Mahfouz, rusbed back to his side. He pulled the knife from the writer's neck and threw it on the ground, where it was later recovered. Hashem tben pnt bis hand on Mahfouz's wound to stop the flow of blood, and backed his car up to the hospital next door. Within moments, the stole old novelist was in surgery.

With almost equal speed, government ministers were at his bedside and television crew in train. This turned the writer, who had avoided any overt political role all his life, from a symbol of Egypt's literary genius into an icon of victory in the struggle with the

The arrests came just as quickly. On Saturday, the main group of alleged conspirators were in custody after a raid on a coffeehouse in the Cairo district of Ain Shams. Several, in-

cluding Nagi and Mahalawi, were wounded. Their purported ringleader, Basim Khalil, reportedly died exchanging gunfire with security forces in the

same raid.

During the next few days, dozens of people were said to have heen held in a sweep for people thought involved — including several who had been extradited from neighbouring Arah states.
The handful of Egyptian

journalists who covered the trial, the defendants, their lawyers and even a few security people had a name for the proceedings. They called it a masrahiyah, a stage play. Everyone sup-posedly knew their part, out. And from the start there was an atmosphere of depressing theatrics and futile haggling in the cour-

The trial's opening on Dec. 6 felt vaguely off-Broadway. The defen-dants, all bearded and with heads shaven, sat in their cages clad in thin, white cotton clothes against the cold. At their counsel's request, the chief jndge cal-led out to each defendant by his first name, asking what had happened to them in custody. Each then recited a list of injuries

troom.

suffered during and after their apprehension.

The judge, in his briga-dier's uniform, listened to the litany with politeness, adjourned the court, and As he did so, a tumult

hegan. Reporters and photographers rushed at the cages, and, in a single movement, the defendants lifted their shirts to show the scars allegedly inflicted by the state.

Yet, defying predictions, the defence did not try to justify the crime by accusing Mahfonz of kufr (unbelief), but instead tried to show that the defendants simply had no connection with the crime.

On the second day of the trial, when one bearded lawyer urged the court to seek the opinion of Al Azhar, Egypt's centre of Islamie orthodoxy, about Mahfouz as a Muslim, one of his colleagues shoved him aside. "We don't care whether Mahfouz is a kafir (unbeliever)," or whatever said Yehia Kassem, a big, sleek, mustachioed man in his late 40s, with the manner of an Egyptian Perry Mason. Instead, he said, the question was whether these men had committed specific crimes, and the defence would show that they

The chief physical evidence against Nagi was apparently a handprint found on Hashem's car.

press before the trial.

was someone behind me"

prompting his responses to

questions. Nagi said that he

never met anyone from the

Kassem said this did not show up in police tests until six weeks after the crime. Fathi Hashem, the chief witness, was never shown Nagi in person, but identi-fied him from photographs. In court, Hashem said that he had only seen the upper half of the assailant's face.

In spite of defence deance, neither Mahfonz nor his wife testified. Mahfouz, excused on health grounds, told prosecutors that he could not see who stabbed him. The chief judge refused to ask Atiyah, who tentatively identified from photos hoth Nagi and Basim Khalil, the man kil-led in the Oct. 15 raid, as the two men who visited their home the night before the attack, to come before the tribunal.

There were powerful personal ironies for me at Haikstep. While getting to know the defendants and, to a lesser extent, their families, an awkward rapport developed between us. My status as a non-Muslim foreigner, who also had a close relationship with Mahfouz, did not seem to bother them. As an American, they probably felt I offered a better channel for them to the outside world.

On the day of jndgment the chief judge simply read the verdicts and left — it was over in less than 10. minutes. Instantly dropping their apolitical poses. the prisoners shonted Islamist slogans. As I tried to reach Nagi, a group of defendants ealled out;
"Raymond — tell Neguib Manfouz that he has no place on earth. Tell him that hy God and the Prophet, he is an unbelievет." I replied sharply: You denied all this during

the trial." As I got close to Nagi, he When he looked my way, his face was affectionate. While I struggled to summon the words to ask him once again if he were truly guilty, and what he felt at the moment, a security man pulled me away. As I lonk d back over my shoulder, I could barely make Nagi out as the crowd was cleared away.

Back at the main entrance, we found the fright-ened families of the defendants. The principal defen-dant's mother spotted me. What about Mohamed Nagi?" she asked. "Execu-

tion," I whispered. She slapped her cheeks in despair and ran away, wail-

The trial at Haikstep may or may not have told us "wbodunnit." After the attack on Mahfouz, there was much talk about a possible Algeria-like cam-paign to eliminate intellec-tuals that the Islamists consider enemies of God. So far, this has not happened, although revenge killings after the executions are feared. And the surge in violence in Upper Egypt which followed the trial seemed unrelated to the events on the Ismailiyah

Yet the war is now merciless. Al Haqq Ali Gadd Al Haqq, the Sheikh of Al Azhar, said last month that the militants were false Muslims who "should be killed, or crucified, or have their hands and feet cut off", punishments not legal in Egypt. Meanwhile, state security forces have killed a number of alleged Islamist terrorists, some in questonable circumstances.

For their part, the militants, accusing the Mubarak regime of rampant corruption and of failing to establish an Islamic state, have murdered hundreds of policemeo, soldiers and bystanders, harassed and killed memhers of the country's Coptic Christian minority, tried to assassinate the president and several government ministers, and shot foreign tourists. But the attack on Mahfouz proved a costly hlunder for the militants in their campaign for the hearts and minds of Egyptians against

As for Mahfouz, his life is changed ntterly. Although his health is improving and his spirits s good, his right arm may never be the same. When he ventures out of his e home, oow a fortress, he moves in an armed convoy. His friends joke nervously k about all the guns, but their freedom of movement, s taken for granted for 50 °

When I briefed Mahfouz to on the trial, his remarks were terse. "They knew the law, and what they were doing, at the start," he said, stabbing the air with his weakened hand, his u still-hoarse voice rising in anger. "Implementing the " law requires no comment." V.

Raymond Stock is writing a biography of Nagnib Mahfouz for Farrar, Straus & Giroux, Inc. Book Publishers in New York. He lives in Cairo. This article is reprinted from the Finan- 4

Nasser reelected JBA head

(Continued from page 1)

Massadeh was the only one of the five presidential candidates to support the minister of justice's decision.

The election of Mr. Nasser is viewed as a setback to government efforts to stem a tide of "anti-normalisation" sentiment in professional associations. The har association, along with other professional associations, has vocally opposed Jordan's peace

treaty with Israel despite warnings from the government that it should recommit itself to addressing issues related to the profession rather than meddling in politics.

The association, which has historically acted as a political forum in the absence of political parties, insists that a majority of lawyers and Jordanian society opposes the treaty, and the JBA, as a popular party, has a right to continue to resist normalisanon with Israel.

Iraq urges Kurds to talks

(Continued from page 12)

The shelling of Kifri southwest of Sulaymaniyeb had destroyed dozens of homes and "hundreds of families have been forced to leave the town, creating a refugee exodus," the PUK said in a

But Mr. Sahaf said that "what is happening in north-ern Iraq is a clash between Kurdish factions."

Baghdad last week denied Kurdish reports that its army was massing close to northern Iraq and shelling towns in the region.

But it confirmed that fighting had taken place with the PUK on Sunday night, saying its army had driven hack 2 PUK attack, causing several casualties among the Kurds. The KDP appears to be

more amenable to negotiating for Kurdish autonomy with the Iraqi government than the PUK, which has always been more hostile to Baghdad than its rival.

If Iraq has launched a major offensive, it would force the PUK to fight on two fronts and eliminating it could open the way for a dialogue between the KDP and Baghdad.

There have been nnconfirmed reports that Iraq bas also reinforced its troops in the south, where they have been fighting an intermittent war with Shine Muslim rebels since another ill-fated rebellion right after the Gulf war.

Blast kills woman

A would-be woman bomber died inside the security headquarters of the KDP on Saturday when an explosive device smuggled under her full-length chador went off prematurely, security officers

for the group said.

A senior KDP official said the woman, identified as Khadija Abdullah Gbafur, had close ties to the PUK. I

Arafat seeks Cairo's help

(Continued from page 1) that a breakthrough was achieved in the latest round with Peres which is not quite true. The only breakthrough can be achieved when we reach an agreement on both the troop withdrawal and holding elections," be said.

Palestinian sources in Cairo said Mr. Arafat planned to ask Mr. Mubarak to urge Japan to increase financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority. Mr. Mnharak starts a three-day visit to Japan on Sunday.

Earlier, Mr. Mubarak told the Egyptian cahinet that the Middle East peace process is going through the most difficult stage."

Mr. Muharak said he hoped the current regional tour by Mr. Christopher would "result in the removal of obstacles hindering the peace process on its various

tracks and achieve progress. Mr. Arafat's visit to Cairo came ahead of meetings by the central committee of his mainstream Fatch faction and of the PLO Executive Committee, set for Mid-March in Tunis.

There is significant opposition to the autonomy deal in both committees and Mr. Arafat is hoping for concrete moves from Israel to win over his critics.

Mr. Peres said Friday Israel and the PLO broke through the stalemate in their negotiations during weeks of secret talks in which they decided to implement the next stage of autonomy in gradual steps.

"What we agreed to and announced yesterday is that

the redeployment and the transfer of authorities in (the West Bank) will be carried out in a gradual manner,' Mr. Peres said on Israel's second television channel. "We will take a step, we

will see the reactions and the actions. And then we will take another step," he said. Mr. Peres revealed that during past weeks, Israelis and Palestinians continued to meet quietly, and were able to draw up a game plan for

renewing negotiations.
"We conducted quiet negotiations in the past weeks and we reached the conclusion that will carry out the second stage in pieces," he said. "Each piece will include redeployment, transfer of authorities, security

issues, economic issues," Dr. Shaath confirmed on Friday the talks had taken

"We don't declare all our negotiations," said Dr. Shaath, a minister in the Palestinian Authority.

There was a meeting in Sweden and we discussed ways to get out of the crisis we were m."

Mr. Peres said he believed Mr. Arafat had begun to rein in militants "much more than he did hefore," and that Palestinian policemen in the Gaza Strip had apparently foiled a number of attempted attacks in Israel. He said Israel demanded from Mr. Arafat an even greater crack-

Another Palestine official said the Palestinian self-rule authority is to debate different alternatives on the fate

Copenhagen summit ends today

"I believe the system is incompatible with the struggle against poverty in the world," said Mr. Castro, one of the world's few remaining Marxist leaders.

had not.

Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson, echoing comments from other leaders, said only real action would prove whether the world could live up to its commitments in Copenhagen.

He said: "Either we make history together ... or history will judge us as guilty of losing an opportunity to change an inhuman and un-France, Denmark and Ger-

many all proposed action in the fight against poverty, unemployment and social exclu-

Saud holds talks in Syria

unless Israel joins.

would contribute to the Mid-Israel has refused to join the pact which Washington wants to see extended indefinitely and unconditionally at a U.N. conference next month in New York.

British Prime Minister John Major, speaking ahead of a Middle East tour, said on Saturday action by Syria against Palestinian groups based in Damascus would boost its stalled peace talks with Israel.

Mr. Major arrives in Israel

sion - the key themes of the

Throughout the trial, the

defendants continued to

claim innocence.

Although, reportedly, they

made contradictory state-

ments to the press. To me,

they denied any hostility to Mahfouz, and said they

were loyal neither to Abdul

Rahman nor the Islamic

Group, of which he is said

to be spiritual leader. I asked Nagi, a slender,

young man, whether he had knifed Mahfouz, whether he thought him an

imbeliever, and if he even

had an opinion as to

whether he was an unbe-

liever. "No," he replied to

Later, I tried to test him

more thoroughly. I told Nagi that I usually ride with

Mahfouz and Hashem on

Fridays to the nadwah, in

the same car in which the

attack took place. On the

day of the assault, I was in

New York; had I returned

to Egypt on schedule, I would likely have been in

the car with them. Nagi hlushed, "I didn't know

anything about it until the next day," he blurted, eyes

cast down in embarrass-

Like all the defendants.

Nagi claimed that he had

been tortured. He told me

that his television confes-

sion was done "under

pressure," and that "there

each question.

summit. French President François Mitterrand urged a trade-off between rich and poor countries: increased aid from wealthy to developing countries which were ready to end the exploitation of children

and other workers. The Copenhagen declaration contains 10 non-binding commitments and a 65-page plan of action.

It has been criticised by many Third World delegates and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for failing to provide new financial resources or to make firm commitments in a specified time to tackle the problem of developing countries' debt, now estimated at oearly \$2,000

on Sunday at the start of a

three-day trip that includes talks with Mr. Arafat in Gaza

and King Hussein in Amman.

on Israel Radio, Mr. Major

said he believed confidence-

huilding measures by all sides

In an interview hroadcast

(Continued from page 1)

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Thursday rebuffed a call from Mr. Christopher to drop his refusal to sign a renewal of the treaty

dle East peace process. "Terrorism has been and is a threat to the Middle East peace process," said Mr. Major, citing a series of guerrilla attacks in Israel.

Asked if he believed Syria's expulsion of an alliance of 10 Palestinian guerrilla groups from Damascus would help, Mr. Major said: "I think it would certainly belp in terms of a confidence-building meaat sea at the end of the Gul

(Continued from page 12) The treaty, signed by about 160 countries, is up for re-

newal next month. Several Arah countries, including Syria and now Iraq, have said they might not endorse it. Al Raya said Mr. Sahaf will lead to Oman after

The two countries are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which is led by Saudi Arabia and includes Knwait, Bahrain and the United Arah Emirates.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait adamantly oppose lifting the sanctions, while Oman and Oatar have called for easing the measures to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people. Qatar sent 2,500 tonnes of

sugar to Iraq last mooth. At the United Nations, the U.S. ambassdor said Thursday that an Iraqi claim that the vast majority of the military equipment it is accused of taking from Kuwait was left behind is an "insult" to the Security Council.

U.S. Amhassador Madeleine Albright has been lohbying council members to matotain the sanctions against Iraq and bas shown council members satellite photographs reportedly showing clite Iraqi units using some of the Kuwaiti military

equipment. The United States has demanded the return of the equipment as a condition for

lifting the sanctions. An Iraqi letter to the council lists some 23,000 pieces of missing Kuwaiti equipment, but says that all except 2,400 items were left in Kuwait or

Qatar questions sanctions :

the equipment it says remains, but says it is damaged and difficult to transport.

"The letter claims Iraq sti has only a few of these itemse despite abundant evidence t the contrary," Ms. Albrigh

"The letter is an insult th the council and to any intellif gent person," she said. ":. shows that Iraq is not yes ready to take the steps necesh sary to see the sanctions reg ime modified."

In a letter released Thurs day, Kuwaiti Amhassadott Mohammad Abulhasan sai Iraq nsed 200 capture armoured personnel carrier when it sent troops toward the Kuwaiti border in Octr ber and has refused to returd Hawk anti-aircraft missiles n

Ms. Albright has said th United States has satellit photographs confirming the the armoured vehicles we used by Iraq's elite Republ can Guards.

Ms. Albright accused Ire of purposely damaging till equipment and said the lett demonstrates that Iraq's i tentions are not only peach

ful, but not even serious. The Iraqi letter says to Hawks missiles were left it Kuwait after Iraqi forco withdrew in 1991 as were 21 of the armoured vehicles. says that only four damage armoured personnel carrie

The property that has n.e been handed over is damage and is difficult to transport laraq Amhassador Niza Hamdoon said in his lette

can be returned.

World Bank: Poor should anot pay for economic reform

COPENHAGEN (R) — The families of laid-off workers Beworld Bank, accused by deelopment groups of creating for ocial problems with the reda orm programmes it promle: ites, said Friday the poor po hould not be made to pay for he transition to market eco-

And in a speech to the Inited Nations Social Sumnit, the bank's acting presi-Welent Sven Sandstrom sugm ested developing and exfor hemselves partly responsible of or a surge of poverty during he reform process.

Sound economic policies Or re the starting point for so-do rail progress. Mr. Sandtrom declared in a reasseron of the bank's insistence nat recipients of its financing ke hould be aiming for the stablishment of market sys-

'But we have learned durpeng the process of economic penform — before higher rowth leads to substantial overty reduction - vulnerble groups left out or hurt by ansition must be pro-

cted." he said. Safety nets to protect the

combined with active programmes to help the unemployed find jobs are particularly important," he pointed

The hank, with its sister institution the International Monetary Fund (IMF), have been targetted by a wide range of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) at the Copenhagen gathering as the

prime villains in a surge of poverty around the globe. Structural adjustment packages imposed by the two had consistently undermined economic and social progress in the countries where they were applied, said a declaration signed by hundreds of NGOs and citizens' groups at

the summit Friday. Clearly responding to such charges, Mr. Sandstrom told government delegates at a plenary session of the weeklong summit the bank "has worked extensively in recent years on the provision of safety nets and other special

"But we recognise that we must do more to help our borrowers protect social ex- tively.

penditure during the period of economic transition, and, beyond this, to focus social spending on the poor," he

"That means primary. education, basic health care, and the early needs of children. Economic transition must not be at their ex-

pense," he added. Heads of state and government and political leaders from 120 countries are expected to sign an already controversial final declaration setting out a blueprint for alleviating world poverty

and unemployment.

Many NGOs say the language expected to emerge from protracted negotiations on a final text are likely to make it ineffective. They say insistence that pure market economics can solve social ills

is wrong.
But Mr. Sandstorm said the declaration recognised that sound economic policies and investment in people were essential for poverty reduction and social progress. However, resources had to be used efficiently and effec-

In education, he said, excessive emphasis was often given to higher education at the expense of primary schooling — favouring chil-dren from richer families and hitting at the poor who could not afford university fees.

"As a result, in some African countries the current generation of children is likely to receive less than half the years of schooling than do those in other countries in the region, even though per capi-ta incomes and public spending on education are about the same," Mr. Sandstrom declared.

In health, he said. "most poor people do not have access to hospitals, yet that is where 50 to 70 per cent of public health expenditures in developing countries go."

By contrast in China, the World Bank officials added, although one per cent less of gross domestic product was spent on health than hy other countries at the same per capita income level, life expectancy was 10 years higher

because Beijing focussed on

hasic health services.

Oman eases rules for foreign investors

ABU DHABI (AFP) - The Gulf state of Oman has eased restrictions on foreign investment as part of sweeping economic reforms aimed at holstering its economy

against fluctuating oil prices. Under new rules for foreign investment issued in 1994, the government created a special committee to end bureaucratic red-tape, expanded tax incentives and allowed foreigners to fully own projects in some sectors.

It is the first Arah Gulf country to remove terms for national partnership that have scared off foreign investors and blocked attempts to obtain technology from key industrial countries through joint ventures.

The new Omani law, details of which were obtained by AFP Saturday, enables foreigners to exceed the 49 per cent partnership rule with locals and own up to 100 per

cent of enterprises. "Foreigners can now have 100 per cent ownership in projects which are deemed necessary for the Omani economy provided their capital is not less than 500,000 Omani rivals (\$1.3 million)," the law

"Priority will be given to projects in the industrial and agricultural sector that use local products and raw materials and help increase the value added as well as exportoriented and capital intensive projects," the law adds.

Foreign investors will have exemptions of up to 10 years for income tax and a similar period for customs tariffs on imports of equipment and raw materials for the pro-The law - the most liberal

investment rule in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — also provides for cheap, long-term leasing of land for investors and the freedom to transfer capital and profits.

The new measures are part of economic reforms launched in the past few years that include privatisation, freeing interest rates and opening up the stock market. The government has already sold five institutions

to the public and is planning to lannch major projects jointly with the private sec-One project already launched involves the construc-tion of a \$70 million power

station in the central region of Minah, in which foreigners have a 65 per cent stake. Other projects included \$6 million gas liquefaction plant, a petrochemical complex at a cost of around \$700 million

and two sewage treatment

plants in Muscat and Salalah at a cost of \$729 million. Last month, Mahmoud Al Jarwani, director of the Muscat Exchange, said the re-forms had attracted around 200 million riyals (\$520 miltion) in 1994 and between 250 and 300 million rivals (\$650-

\$780 million) were expected to be invested this year. "In the coming years we expect foreign investment to

pick up, given the liberal economic laws and incentives we have introduced," he told AFP by telephone Saturday, "What also makes Oman attractive for investors is its location in a vast consumer region and its abundant energy and cheap labour."

Oman, which is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, produced more than 800,000 barrels per day (b/d) of crude oil in 1994, compared with around 765,000. b/d in 1993.

Despite a decline in oil prices during that period, its revenues rose to 1.28 billion riyals (\$3.33 billion) in 1994 from 1.03 billion rivals (\$2.67 billion) in 1993, according to official Omani figures.

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The increase offset a decline in some sectors and hoosted the total gross domestic product by nearly six per cent, to 3.33 billion riyals (\$8.65 billion) from 3.14 billion riyals (\$8.16 bil-

outh Africa scraps xchange control currency

PhiHANNESBURG (R) uth Africa will scrap its ancial rand exchange con-I currency Monday, and vert to a single unified nd. Finance Minister Chris

benberg said Friday. The government has ... deled that as from Monday, irch 13 1995, the exchange atrol restrictions on the e convertibility and repattion of the local sale prods of non-resident owned uth African investment be repealed. The finanrand and the dual ex-

inge rate system will thereeffectively be termin-." he said in a statement. The country's biggest emyer organisation, the th African Chamber of mmerce (SACOB) welned its abolition, saying it phone from Pretoria. ection of abolishing all exnge control restrictions. It is line with SACOB's ws on the liberalisation of hange controls," SACOB

in a statement. The abolition of the uncial rand reflects a confiice by the government in stability of South Africa a willingness to subject economic policies to the of the market. This confi-

ce is sure to be noticed by international investment munity." it said. inancial markets are exted to be volatile when

ding hegins Monday, lysts said, but no substanThe rand traded after the

announcement at hetween 3.65 to 3.68 to the dollar from closing level of 3.6400/500 in the commercial rand and 3.74/76 in the financial rand. Analysts said they ex-

to find a level of about 3.70 to the dollar Monday. The financial rand had been used by non-residents to invest in, or disinvest from.

pected the new unitary unit

local securities. South African Reserve (central) Bank Governor. Chris Stals said the scrapping of the financial rand would not require any real devalua-

tion of the new unitary rand. "It will not require any real devaluation of the rand," Mr. Stals told Reuters by tele-

conceived idea of what level the rand should have, but said the Reserve Bank would be watching the market "very closely" when the unitary rand is reintroduced Mon-

day.

Mr. Liebenberg and Ms. Stals said at this stage, exchange controls applying to foreign investments by South African residents remain in

force. Mr. Liebenberg said when the financial rand is abolished, South Africa would have only one unitary exchange rate which will apply to both current and capital transactions between resiweakening in the rand is dents and non-residents.

IMF chief announces massive new loan initiatives for Russia

sus gave the go-ahead here Friday for a crucial \$6.5 billion IMF loan to Russia and opened up the possibility of a follow-up \$19.5 billion credit.

Mr. Camdessus signed an agreement to support Russia's application for the \$6.5 billion loan - to be paid out in instalments over the next year starting in April after it goes before the IMF board in

He told a press conference: "We are in the preliminary. stage of a preliminary discus-sion" of including Russia in an IMF "extended fund facility" which would give Mos-cow a \$19.5 billion loan over three or four years. Mr. Camdessus stressed

that instalments of the first credit would depend on Russia sticking to a strict economic programme for 1995 signed Friday hy Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and central bank chairwoman Tatiana Paramonova.

And he indicated that the second loan would come only after an "intense" and successful stabilisation of the Russian economy. "We are not there, but the possibility is open," the IMF head said. Russian first deputy prime

minister Anatoly Chuhais

said: "What happened in the

MOSCOW (AFP) — International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Michel Camdes-Russian reform in 1995. We Russian reform in 1995. We can say confidently that we shall stop inflation in 1995.

The two men were speaking after a meeting between Mr. Camdessus and other IMF officials with President Boris Yeltsin and members of his government.

Mr. Camdessus said he was particularly encouraged hy Mr. Yeltsin's pledge to throw his full weight behind the 1995 economic programme, which would "sow the seeds for recovery of production and the living standards of the Russian people."

The programme includes a per cent cut in the budge deficit, a commitment to avoid inflationary central hank financing of the deficit, tight monetary policies and the freeing up of foreign trade rules.

Mr Camdessus warned that sticking to the programme would not be easy. "We should not fool ourselves," he said.

But he added that Russia had already made "enormous strides" in economic reform and that the IMF was ready to help Moscow restart negotiations on its \$35 billion debt to the Paris Club of public "The oil countries can do sector creditors.

Yemen hikes charges of basic services gress of President Ali Abdul-

SANAA (R) — Impoverished Yemen has raised the prices of some basic services by up to 100 per cent, making them out of reach for many citizens, a local newspaper

reported. The electricity ministry surprised consumers with bills containing huge sums (to pay) which exceed the monthly income of many," the weekly May 22 newspap-

The weekly, published by the General Peoples Con-

Kuwaitis: Weak dollar

lah Saleh, said electricity prices went up 100 per cent in January. Prior to the increase a kilowatt/honr cost 2.5

According to the official exchange rate, a U.S. dollar is worth 12 rivals but the Yemeni currency has been steadily falling on the blackmarket, down to 115 riyals to the dollar.

The weekly said rates for various transportation ser-

vices had also been raised, adding that some officials believe the new measures, in line with World Bank and International Monetary Fund-orescribed reforms. would improve Yemen's weak economy.

The two national flag carriers raised prices for domestic travel by 60 per cent in February and are demanding a 100 per cent increase on international flights to be introduced this month, the weekly added.

The inclination to lift remaining subsidies and raise foel prices is still under discussion...wheat subsidies are expected to be lifted by 40 weekly said. A litre of fuel currently sells for six rivals and the weekly said telephone rates were expected to rise by 100.

Although Yemen recently joined the elite club of Arab oil exporters it is still one of the region's poorest states.

Diplomats and economists pnt the annual inflation rate at between 60 and 100 per cent while unemployment in Yemen, which has a population of 14 million, runs at 30 per cent of the estimated four million people workforce.

They put Yemen's foreign debt at about \$8 billion owed mostly to the former Soviet Union for past military sales.

pressuring OPEC states per cent as a first step," the for economic reform

KUWAIT (R) - Dollar nothing except reorganise weakness has underlined the. need for fundamental economie reform in OPEC states. which have no short-term remedy for the squeeze on oil revenues pegged to the U.S. currency. Kuwaiti economists

said Saturday. Members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) are unlikely to meet to arrange some quick fix to their predicament and the dollar's slide can be mitigated only hy more prudent economic management, the emirate's Al Shall Economics Consultancy

"It is unlikely that OPEC already nnable to defend nominal oil prices, will meet to discuss how to counter its exports' reduced real value," Shall said in a weekly review.

their domestic affairs, adopt more prudent economie policies, control their expenditures, especially military ones, and begin establishing good neighbourly relations,

then consultancy pointed out "The low exchange rate of the dollar will constitute a real pressurising factor on oil producing countries' general finances, with implicit political and social consequences,"

OPEC President Ida Bagus Sudjana said Thursday a weak U.S. dollar was a hlow to oil producers because the real income from oil exports

Mr. Sudjana also said he did not see any possible move by OPEC, which produces about 37 per cent of the world's oil, to stop pegging oil prices to the U.S. curren-

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MARCH 12, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You want to make some changes and be off on a trip today which is fine as long as you use care and tact. Be alert to a new philosophy of life.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Handle any responsibility today that you have assumed and keep your promises meticulously

Show that you are active and dynamic in all your endeavours. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) If you push an associate less, you'll gain more cooperation. Civic tasks seem difficult now, so handle only what is necessary and try to relax this evening.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You need to handle many tasks, so get an early start. Be encouraged by fellow associates and gain their support.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Concentrate on furthering and deepening relationships that have brought you much joy in the past. Do favours for those with whom you are most fond. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have to be tactful with

those who live with you to increase happiness at home. Try to help them more. Not a good time for entertaining this evening. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have to use patience with partners today and ease a tense situation. Be very careful in driving, especially on the highway. Be more affectionate.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Curb that temptation to spend too much money today and maintain present security. Listen to what monetary experts have to suggest. Investigate new invest-

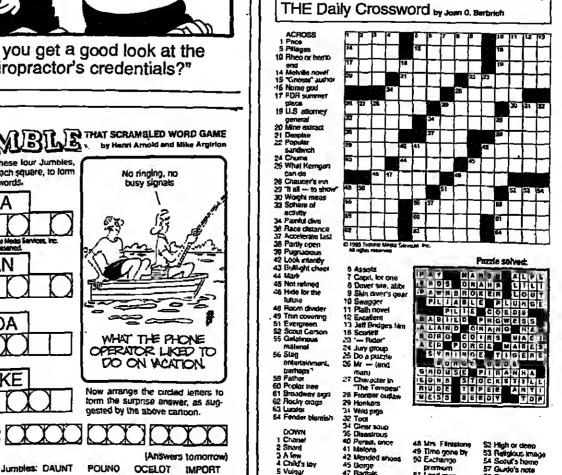
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Analyse some situation very deverty and say very little until you come up with the right answers later today. Avoid the social scene until tomorrow. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Decide what you want, but be sure your reasons are sound before you make plans today.

Take care of odds and ends around the house which must be done

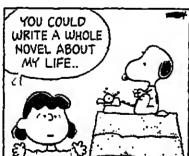
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19] Friends are vital to your welfare now, but keep only those who will not upset you or the structure of your life in any way. Resist those who want to make you

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Show that you are a good citizen and do nothing to spoil your good reputation today. Use particular car. where credit is concerned and don't make any loans.

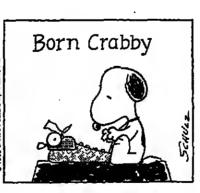
Birthstone of March: Aquamarine - Jasper



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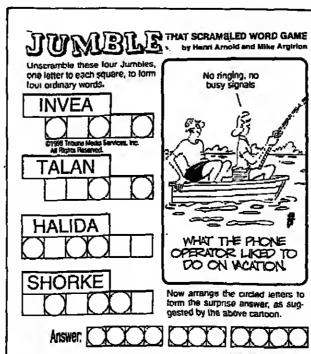








"Did you get a good look at the chiropractor's credentials?"



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Number, volume of bouncing cheques hit the roof

that some 435,000 cheques

bounced last year, compared to 350,800 cheques in 1993.

The value of the bounced

cheques in 1994 amounted to ID 372,100,000 compared to ID 306 million in the preceding year. As such an average of JD 2 million of cheques bounced every day last year. Banking sources attributed the hallooning number and volume of bouncing cheques thing opens in market recession, diminishing consumption, high chool for love prices and low income. The sources hinted that only a small portion of the bounced theques was a result of deiberate action of frand or the ike hy the drawer. A total of 7.942.200 cheques were preented for clearing last year, 251 ... compated to 7,220,300 chejues in 1993. The volume was in 1994. sion in 1993. Amman had the lion's share of cheques presented for clearing with 5,887,900 worth JD 9,068.2 million. Irhid was second (496,300 cheques for JD 344,100,000) and Zarqa came third (436,600 cheques for JD 277,500,000). Aqaba was m hird place in terms of volume as 121,400 cheques

for ID 306,500,000 were pro-

essed in the clearing system

last year (Al Dustour).

public shareholding company Inedra Stat the Ministry of Industry d watches and Trade on Jan. 19, 1995, the newly established Spe-DIF Dans G. cialised Investments Jordanian Company is offering one value, for public subscription tarting March 11 until March 30, 1995. The company, capialised at JD 4 million, aims it administering affiliated irms and participating in the * # 8 . · · · · nanagement of other com-_anies. Other objectives inhude setting up, acquiring or westing in all types of comanies as need be. The main - nunders from about 144 who -ivested a total of JD 3 milon are: Jamil, Aref, and Mr. - " ami Barakat (JD 100,000 ach), Barakat General rading Company (JD 100,000), Tharwat Al Bar-nouthi (JD 100,000), Ra'd ammoudi Salman (İraqi —) 100,000), Yassin Ahbas alman (Iraqi — JD 30,000), Marwan Nobani D 100,000), Azmi Odeh M. ousef (JD 100,000), the rah Bank, the Housing ink and the Amman Bank r Investments (JD 100,000 ch), the Jordan French Inrance and the Arahian Seas surance (JD 100,000 each), : Jordan National Bank, Jordan Kuwait Bank, the - rdan Gulf Bank and Busiss Bank (JD 50,000 each) d the Orphans' Fund (JD) ,000). Ooly 25 per cent of

> THE "investment winw" at the Investment Entragement Department employed three economic consultancy offices to ly investment opportuniavailable in the agricultutourism and service secin order to specify pros that can be put to an stor's discretion. The dement aims at achieving a imum of 270 projects ordan (Al Ra'i).

* share value is to be paid

on subscribing with the

it to be paid over the next

ur years (Al Ra'i).

CHARITABLE ties spent JD 698,654 in on productive and depmeotal projects they ement with self-financing in the participation of General Union of Volun-Societies in cooperation Other parties. Spending he 247 productive proamounted to JD 376,360 : the rest was spent on ramme development, ings, credit funds, kinirtens and hearing aids

Iraq outlines oil wealth to Western executives

Minister Safa Hadi Jawad told more than 250 energy specialists Saturday Iraq had giant undeveloped oilfields that could produce more than 4.5 million barrels per day

"It must be explained here that more than 30 discovered and appraised oil fields with total productioo capacity of more than 4.5 million b/d are ready now for development," Mr. Jawad told an energy conference in the Iraqi capital, whose delegates included Western oil company offi-

cials.
"We are determined to

ntilise the country's huge hydrocarbon reserves to raise production commensurate with the size of these reserves," the minister said in

an opening address. On Friday, Mr. Jawad said Iraq is currently producing between 600,000 and 700,000 h/d and the country was ready to export two millioo b/d immediately once United Nations sanctions were lifted.

He said that Iraq, whose oil exports are blocked by the sanctions, possessed at least 112 billion harrels of proven reserves and 214 billion harrels of prohable reserves.

potential. Wide opportunities for expossible to work again in this

ploring oil and gas in Iraq's western desert were available for foreign firms, he said. . We welcome any com-

pany...it is very important for us to have the companies here for our production," the minister told a small group of reporters.

Mr. Jawad said Iraq also had reserves of 160 trillioo cubic feet (4.53 trillion cubic metres) of gas reserves. Oil company officials from

29 countries atteoding the

conference said they were

attracted hy lraq's vast 'One day it will become

pany Total said. Mr. De Margerie said the company was prepared to in-

vest "several billion dollars," in developing the Nahr Umar oil field in sonthern Iraq when U.N. sanctions were

Margene, executive vice-

president of French oil com-

"We are looking at the opportunities here but we have oot settled on specific fields," Salvatore Floridia, acquisitions manager with Italian energy company

Mr. Jawad said Iraq would need between \$30 to \$40 bilSome \$25 billion alone would be needed to revitalise oil fields and export facilities over the next five to eight

He said Iraq had started "serious discussions" over developing Nahr Umar and another field called Mainoun, which alone holds some 38 billion barrels.

French firms Total and Elf have reached tentative agreements with Baghdad to develop both fields as soon asthe sanctions, imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990,

Iraq would gear up to reach pre-Gulf war exports of three million barrels in a little over year after sanctions were

Terms of deals have not been made public hut Mr. Jawad said sharing contracts with foreign firms would be valid for a maximum six to seven years.

Foreign firms would only be entitled to recover "production costs and an interest on investment," he said, adding that the crude would "remain Iraq's, 100 per

ing at the U.N. Security Council for the lifting of U.N. trade sanctions and critised the United States for trying to keep them intact.

"Those who still advocate the continuation of the embargo are running out of

excuses," he said. Mr. Jawad told OPEC member countries not to fear Iraq's return to markets. stressing that Baghdad would approach the oil market with responsibility."

"Our return to the market should not be seen as a threat to anyone," he added.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET BOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SEMEISANI

CONTANY'S NAME -	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE	PREV. C	LOSING
	TRADED	30	PRICE	
ARAB BANK PIC	340	64250	18a. SOO	188.500
FORDAM NATIONAL BANK	2050	9041 45684 350 20029 22149 7788 9375 60743 4200 2302 86589	4.420	4.410
Jordan National Bank / Ken	10800	45684	4.230	4.230
BANK OF JORDAN	100	350	3.500	
CIDOLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK.	13550	20029	1.490	1.500
THE HOUGING BANK FORDAN KUNAIT BANK	3650 2597	22149	6.090 3.000	
JORDAN GULF BANK	7400	0775	1.320	
	15896	60743	3.830	
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK DORDAN INVESTMENT & FIMANCE BANK BEIT ELMAL SAVINGEINVESTMENT FOR BOUSING	1050	4200	4.050	
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE SANK BEIT RIMAL SAVINGGINVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	750	2308	3.120	
APPOAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	74950	86589	1.200	1,140
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.	17650	24172	1.430	
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BANKS SECTOR	150783		CHANGE	BER: 159.72 : -0.332
JORDAN INSURANCE	500	1700		
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	150	273	2.000	
JORDAN FRENCE INSURANCE	36100		2.500	
DELTA INSURANCE	250	475	1.810	1,900
INAOAN6CE SECTOR	37000	92550	CHANGE	BER: 136.56
TORDAMIAN ELECTRIC POWER	8000	12630	1.570	
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	16300	24495	1.510	
RAH INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	61972	309856	4.850	
CHORAR MATICALL SHIPPING LINES	4876	16294	3.360 2.190	
ACTIVAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1500	1925	.690	. 660
THE TOTAL PACE C CONCERNED BOTTLE	19182	44657	2.350	2,320
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER /NEW JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER /NEW ARAB INTERNATIONAL BOTELS JORDAN ENTIONAL SETPPING LINES NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES MACHINARY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE DUITED HIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	1200	4194	3.540	
	112020	41 5040	TANDER AND	
SEAVICAS SECTOR	11373U		CHANGE	BER: 130.97 : +0.042
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	200	6400	33.500 1.200 2.990 5.020 9.440 3.800 7.590 4.380 2.700 2.850 7.970 .940 6.750	32.000
ATTANQUEP CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	1200	1403	1.200	1.170
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	30232	90531	2.990	2.980
THE ARAB POTASH/NEW	200	1000	5.020	5.000
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINARY	200 196	1847	9.440	9.410
THE INDOSTRIAL COMMERCIAL 6 AGRICULTURAL	950	3471	3.800	3,700
THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	4150 25450 3500 950 5500	31413	7. S90	7.SSO
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	25450	107497	4.380	4.160
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	3500	9450	2.700	2.700
RAFIA INDOSTRIES	950	2680	2.850	2.820
DAR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	5500	43856	7.970	7.970
	70030	9646	.940	. 890
		4290	6.750	6.600
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	108850 15150	77359 21119 3800 3845	.730 1.420	.690 1.380
AND TAYER CHIVERTIES E TRAULES		31113	3.830	3.750
TORREN BARRISOT THE MANNETS	1000 3400	3945	1,160	1 100
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JINCO	11700	8717	- 740	. 700
JORDAN SITT DIO-CHRISTICALS	350	553	1.630	1.500
ARAS CENTER FOR PEARM. & CHENTCALS	1300	3299	2.570	2.510
INTVERSAL MODERN THOUSTRES	4700	19278	2.570 4.140	4.090
ARAS CESTER FOR PEARM. E CHEMICALS UNIVERSAL MODERN INDOSTRIES FORDAN INDOSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	2700	5460	2.060	2.010

Eurobond, U.S. markets TUNIS (R) — Tunisia, which issued 25 hillion yen in The main performing sectors

Tunisia plans to enter

Samurai bonds in Tokyo last month, plans to enter other financial markets such as Eurohonds and the U.S. domestic market, its central hank (BCT) governor said.

The turn to other markets such as the Eurobond or the U.S. domestic market, or other instruments such as syndicated loans might be considered (in 1995)," BCT Governor Mohammad Beji Hamda told Reuters.

"It would depend essentially on our financing needs and the conditions proposed to Tunisia for entering into these markets," he pointed

The BCT is issuing bonds worth 25 hillion yen in 5.6 per cent Samurais priced at par and maturing on Feb. 28, 2000. It received a BBB rating by the Japan Bond Research Institute.

This is Tunisia's second international issue, the first being a similar Samurai bond issued last year in Tokyo.

"Tunisia has reached of development which makes it non-eligible for classical financial resources such as bilateral or multilateral aid," Mr. Beji Hamda said. Therefore it needs to

mobilise resources for its needs on the international financial markets," he said: Mr. Beji' Hamda said the economic reforms Tenisia had implemented since 1987

Bank were successful. Despite a drought and a decline in oil production, GDP growth was 4.4 per cent in 1994, up from 2.1 per cent in 1993, and is forecast to be 6.3 per cent in 1995, he said. BCT.

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Mr. Beji Hamda said the economic and financial liberalisation reforma, including the easing of foreign exchange and import restrictions, had not hurt Tunisia's financial position.

"Our currency reserves have strongly increased, and as of Feb. 22, 1995, they reached 1,288 million dinars (\$1.3 billion), representing 68 days of imports, from 824 million dinars, representing 45 days of imports on the

same date last year," be said. Mr. Beji Hamda said financial resonrces for development were expected to receive a boost from the privatisation of public firms and the listing of new companies on the Tunis bourse.

Nearly 50 firms have been privatised so far, and the government said earlier this year it would speed up the

Twenty one firms are now listed on the Tunis Stock Exchange which saw 1994 turnover rising 228 per cent to \$531 million from \$162 million in 1993, and the index rising by 102 per cent. Mr. Beji Hamda said the

day-to-day foreign exchange market, which started on March 1, 1994, was "clearly positive for both the hanks and the (economy)."---He said the freedom

allowed to hanks to set their own rates has not affected the dinar which had been stable. He said 80 per cent of Tunisia's foreign exchange operations are now between hanks with the rest made with

Austrian housewives, grannies drain banks' dollar reserves

VIENNA (R) — Housewives, grannies and even schoolchildren have caught foreign exchange fever hreaking into their piggy banks to huy dollars that have never heen so cheap.

Banks in Austria and Germany are reporting their dollar inventories are heing drained hy an unprecedented run on the beleaguered U.S. currency hy an unlikely clientle - pimple-faced teenagers and grey-haired grandmothers.

Frantic dollar hunters are dashing from emptied hank to emptied bank, hoping to swap their Austrian schillings and German marks into dollars before it's too late. Some hanks are trying to limit the amounts the hoarders can

huy.
"Half the population of Vienna has been in here looking for dollars," said Rudolf Bucher, a manager at Creditanstalt's head office where there were no dollars to be had Friday.

"We're hoping to get some more in hy the afternoon, but we can't make any promises," he said. Banks in Austria and Germany said they were selling

up to 30 times as many dol-

lars in recent days as was

Christian Manz, a senior official at Bank Austria, the country's largest bank, said daily volumes had multiplied to hetween \$20 million and \$30 million. He estimated \$350 million per day. The dollar hit record lows

usual.

that Austrians across the country were now huying

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on Wednesday - news that is being splashed over newspaper front pages and leading the evening television and radio

"We had a group of 12-year-old boys in here this morning who put their pocket money together to huy \$20," Mr. Bucher said. "They had heard on the news that the dollar was so cheap and figured they had to huy some

Dollar hunters walk out with an average of between \$1,000 and \$20,000 in cash. hankers said. But they added some have taken as much as \$200,000 in cash out the front

'Austrians, especially older Austrians, have never seen the dollar so cheap and just can't resist huying it." said one hanker in Vienna, who said he'd seen women older than 70 looking for dollars.

"A lot are planning holidays to the U.S. or countries where dollars are taken. But there are also some private speculators coming in here even though the transaction. fees and costs of holding the cash dollars make it very hard to make a profit," he

added. The dollar was trading at 1.41 marks Friday, already rebounding from record lows of 1.345 marks. Against the Austrian currency, the dollar was at 9.9 schillings, up from a low of 9.6.

"My father is in tears about the dollar being so low," said Natalie Lanczmann, a Vienna lawyer. "Something is wrong with the world when the dollar is worth less than against the schilling and mark 10 schillings."

Jordan Times Financial

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I 6 D O S T R I A L S E C T O F

VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET



233032

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Carrency	New York	New York
	Pake 9/3/95	Per 10/5/95
Sterling Pound	1.4092	1.5740
Doutsche Mark	1,4010	1.4125
Swigs Franc	1.1679	1.1797
French Franc	4.7225	5.0455
Japanese Ven	90.90	90.90
European Currony Unit	1.3055	1.2962
(1901 Per 1576) "Larmyres tipening at 1840 was GRET formularrapings Important Matter	Date	10/3/1995
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U.S. Dullar	5.87	6.00	6.2S	6.68
SterRing Pound .	à.18	6.50	6.87	6.62
Dentsche black	4.68	4.75	5.00	5.37
Swips Franc	3,37	3.56	3.75	4.06
French franc	6.81	6.87	6.75	6.75
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.00	2.00	2.00
European Currency Unit	1.31	7.25	7.25	7.37
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				Date:	11/3/199

USDVO2 JTVGm* Mctal USDVOz JDVGm

Date: 11/3/1995	Dat		
Offer	Bid	Currency	
0.6910	0.6898	U.S. Dollar	
1.0891	1.0457	Starling Pound	
0.4902	. 0.4878	Deutsche Mark	
0.5875	0.5846	Swiss Franc	
0.1371	0.1364	French Franc	
0.7593	. 0.7555	Japanese Ven"	
0.4368	0,4344	Dutch Guilder	
****	400004	Swedish Krona	
0.0417	0.0409	Italian Lies"	
	*****	Belgino Franc	
	*****	migan Frant	

Ocher Currencies	Date: 11/3/1995		
Currency	BSA	Offer	
Bahraini Dinar	1-4120	1.4240	
Lebenese Lira®	0.041775	0.042950	
Saudi Riyal	0.1834	0.1843	
Koweki Dinar	2.3000	2.3500	
Qetari Riyal	0.1830	0.1893	
Egyptism Pound	0.1850	0.2085	
Oresal Riyal	1.7810	1,7930	
UAE Dirlam	0.1478	0.2110	
Greek Drochma*	0.2755	0.3145	
Cyprist Found	1.4650	1.5500	

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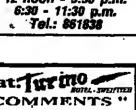












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Victory Team wins

Dubai Rally

ABU DHABI (AP) — Khaiffa Al-Mataywi gave Dubai's Victory Rally Team a flying start to the 1995 FIA Middle

East Championship here Friday with an overwhelming win

It is the first leg of the seven-round championship to be staged in other Middle East countries over the next few

Mataywi, an overnight leader from the first of the two

days of this 634 kilometre event, reached the finish in Abu

Dhabi in his victory Toyota Celica GT-4 with a 22-minute edge over the Group N Mitsubishi Galant VR-4 of

Tanzanian Sadio Fazal, who is based in the United States

Abu Dhabi's Salem Bin Shehan in a fort Escort

Cosworth celebrated his debut rally by taking third place.

British driver Howard Paterson finished fourth and

topped the Formula Two category for two-wheel drive cars

He was followed by the Peugeots of Australian Ron Cremen and Britain's Simon Nutter, and the sole female

After bolding second position in his Mazda 323 for most of the second leg, Knwait's Mohammad Al-Housaini was

one of five drivers excluded at the end of the final 14th

Also excluded were Peter Cherry, who had been holding fourth place in a Mitsubishi. Kuwait's Sabah Al Anezi

(Volvo 244) Great Britain's Siegried Steur in a Group A Toyota Corolla, and Nike Mandrides in a Group A Land

Leading Middle East Championship positions:.

Rover. Cherry and Mandrides are U.A.E.-based.

stage for failing to follow the rally route.

in the U.A.E. International Raily.

Arab Emirates.

in a Volkswagen Golf GTI.

1- K. Al-Mataywi, 20 points

driver, Fiona Udale.

2- S. Fazal, 15

3- S. Sheban, 12

5- R. Cremen, 8

6- S. Nutter, 6

7- F. Udale, 4

4- H. Paterson, IO

Indoor Athletics Championship

Ottey, Surin reign in Spain

BARCELONA (AFP) — Merlene Ottev and Bruny Surin both struck sprinting gold here on Friday to open the World Indoor Championship medal chase.

For the Jamaican, the 60m success was her 27th medal at a major championship since 1979, while Surin regained the short sprint title he won on home territory in Toronto

But both admitted there was one big disappointment — the absence of their chief rivals, Linford Christie and Irina Privalova.

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Britain's world and Olympic champion Linford Christie looked on in the stands as Surin, whose season last year was blighted by a knee injury, won in a championship best of 6.46 seconds, ahead of Christie's compatriot Darren Braithwaite (6.51) and Robert Esmie of Canada

Surin said: "There was more pressure this time but 1 ran the perfect race. But I would have preferred Christie to be here but he had his

Ottey, meanwhile, who

won in 6.97 seconds ahead of Melanie Paschke of Germany (7.10) and American Carlette Guidry, said: "There was just no pressure for me at all. I wish Privalova had run.

"I think I was trying to do too much and my second half wasn't as good as I wanted."

"I'll go for the double in Gothenburg (at the world outdoor championships in August) but I chose the 60 metre here because I have missed out twice and I wanted a 60-metre title before I retire --- whenever that

Neither looked in any trou-

Silver medallist Braithwaite admitted: "There was nothing I could have done. His pick-up was better than mine, that was his class showing. It's my first major medal and I'm totally delighted." The biggest loser of the day

was another British sprinter, Michael Rosswess. Drafted in to replace Christie after he decided at the 11th hour not to compete.

Rosswess seemed to have qualified for the final only for medal hopes to disappear on

> Jamaica also qualified comfortably. The psychological coup of the day was scored by Geir Moen, Norway's sprinting pin-up who won the European 200 metre title last year when world silver medallist John Regis had to cry off with an Achilles injury.

But he accepted the deci-

sion with perfect sports-

manship. "That's life." he

said after he calling heads

only for tails to gift a final

place to German Marc.

Blume, who went on to finish

Rosswess had run a semi-

final time of 6.618 and had

originally been named as one of the final eight but then it

was announced that Blume

bad clocked a time just one

thousandth of a second slow-

er - meaning that under

IAAF rules a coin should

decide who ran in the final.

giving the rest of the 400

metre field an early warning

of her intentions.
In her first individual out-

ing over the distance in a

major event, the Russian

double European sprint

champion looked imperious

as she coasted to a 52.78 heat

As she had predicted, she

went out fast and then jogged

in over the final straight.

World champion Jearl Miles

of the USA went faster, win-

ning her run in 52.48 but she

must have been impressed by

Privalova's form. Reigning champion Sandie Richards of

Privalova, meanwhile, was

fifth.

Regis, looking for revenge, was left to gaze at Moen's disappearing back in their semi-final, Moen clocking 20.59 to the British runner's 20.94

Moen, an unknown until his Helsinki success, had almost goaded Regis before their first meeting, saying: "1 am glad he is here - I want to beat the bet.'

The other medals of the



U.S. Athlete Jearl Miles (centre) on her way to clocking 52.48 qualifying run (AFP photo)

vari, who won the men's shot for his first major international success with an effort of 20.74 metre ahead of C.J. Hunter of the United States (20.58) and Dragan Peric of ugoslavia (20.36).

Russia's Svetlana Moskalets, meanwhile, won the

pentathlon with a final total of 4,834 points ahead of American Kym Carter (4.632) and fellow Russian Irina Tyukhay (4,622).

Moskalets based her triumph on victories in the 60 metre hurdles, the high and long jumps.

In another performance of note, new American 400 metre sensation Darnell Hall led Sunday Bada of Nigeria, the silver medallist from Toronto, from the gun to win his opening heat in 46.32.

ter Stewart, one of the key

Stewart said scientists know from studying rats that the connection between brain cells and chemical transmitters can be sheared. It takes 60 to 90 days for the body to repair itself but in some cases brain cells die when the

The accelerometer could lead to safety advances in

Jansher fights to reach final

LISBON (AFP) — World squash champioo Jansber Khan had to battle for 77 minutes, packed with gruell-ing rallies, to subdue young Scotsman Peter Nicol in the Portuguese Open semifinals

on Friday. Nicol was the last man to win against the near invincible Pakistani in a world circuit match, 13 months ago in the Leekes Welsh Classic, in

Cardiff. For quite a while, Nicol, a more improved player since then, looked thoroughly capable of repeating that success

and the scores, 15-10, 5-15, 15-9, 15-6, did not flatter It was only over the last of half a dozen points or so that Jansher, tactically so craftly and such a master at using his

long reach in defending, was thority. The sphere of play in which Nicol, a former British junior champion, looked so improved since last year was in the front court. He played drop shots with alacrity

game, often with telling The stage where the match started to swing in favour of Jansher was at 5-5 in the third game, when Nicol struck a short patch of tiredness and made three unforced errors

against a master of the short

in a row. Nicol's touch returned thereafter, but Jansber bad achieved a position of strength which he would not then relinquish.

In the final, Jansher meets Englishman Peter Marshall who avenged a defeat of three months ago, in Bone bay, at the bands of Austra-

lian Rodney Eyles.

Marshall won 15-14, 159 15-11 in a match interrupted by a change of courts in the second game.

And the Englishman with the unique two-banded grin who lost to Jansher in lan September's World Open for al in Barcelona and Novem ber's Pakistan Open, said: 41am playing well enough to get my own back on Jansber that 20101

This month's British Open Squash Championship is to fall into line with other major men's tournaments by adopting the American scoring system and a lower, 17-inch tin.

Under the American sys tem, each rally counts for a service point and each game is won the first by the player first reaching 15 points. For the past 65 years the British Open has been scored to nine points with points scored only by the state of the state

Professional Squash Association tournaments have for ciation tournaments may be lowed the American system lowed the American system in the since 1988. But the conservation of the since 1988 and the conservation of the since 1988 and tive Squash Rockets Association, the ruling body for the tion, the ruing body to English game, has previously the tradition.

The hin has traditionally been two inches higher, at 19 The in has traditionally

and the second as we

MILADELPHIL

At 11:00 a.m.

Sainz wins Portuguese Rally

(Left to right) Canadians Robert Esmie, Bruno Surin, and

Briton Darren Braithwaite on the winners podium in Barcelona (AFP photo)

FIGUEIRA DA FOZ, Portugal (AFP) — Spain's Carlos Sainz notched bis second victory of the season, when be won a thrilling finish to the Portuguese Rally at the wheel of a Subaru Impreza. Sainz beat another former

world champion, Juha Kankkunen, by 12secs — despite the Flying Finn having started the third and final day 22sec ahead in a Toyota Celí-

The two men fought a tremendous duel in the final 24 hours, the rest of the field having already been consigned to the role of specta-

Sainz's Scottish teammate Colin McRae came thid, 3min 14sec off the pace.

The Spaniard, world champion in 1990 and 1992 and who this season's opener at Monte Carlo, now leads the world championship after

Friday's victory was his second on Portuguese soil, after winning in 1991.

Despite the strong finish by the Subarus, Mitsubishi remain on top of the constructors standings.

The next round of the championship is the Tour of Corsica from May 3-5.

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Device may help warn boxers of brain injuries

BALTIMORE (AP) — "A device smaller than a cigarette-pack could be a boxer's best weapon against the type of injury that ended Gerald McCle!lan's career at Johns Hopkins University

The device, called an "accelerometer," is part of an ongoing study of what happens to the brain when a fighter receives an uppercut, a left jab or a right cross to the head.

About a half-dozen amateur fighters have worn helmets fitted with the accelerometer during sparring. The device records head motion in three directions and stores the information on a computer memory card, said Nick Jones, associate professor of civil engineering at Hopkins and the device's designer.

A printout looks like a seismic reading during an

- Top-seeded Steffi Graf reached the semi-finals of the

Delray Beach Winter Cham-

pionships without hitting a

ball on Friday, while Conchi-

ta Martinez had to fight her

way past tenacious Kristie

Graf, who has won this event for the past three years and five times in all, was

handed a semi-final berth

when Barbara Rittner pulled

out. She was the 10th player

to withdraw because of injury

many players pulling out." said Graf. "It's very dis-

appointing. I would have pre-

Graf played an exhibition

set with Jana Novotna, one of

the walking wounded with a

shoulder injury, winning it

Meanwhile Martinez was

struggling to pull of a 6-4, 7-6

(9/7) against her unseeded

She trailed 4-6 in the tie-

breaker before regaining the

upper hand. She pushed

Boogert into losing her last

five service points, but the

21-year-old was happy with

top players I'll get to know

them and what they do on

important points," she said.

"I lost to the number four

player in the world. That's

not a bad loss, and it was

But now Martinez is in

danger of joining the massive

injured list. She withdrew

even a close match."

Once I start to play these

"It's pretty amazing this

Boogert.

or illness.

ferred to play.

Dutch opponent.

the experience.

earthquake. Head blows. which can take less than oneienth of a second, show up as But scientists don't know

yet what damage the head During the next step of the

study, amateur boxers wearing the accelerometer will be given brain scans before and after sparring. "It will enable us to under-

stand a lot about head injury because we are going to be recording cause and effect." Jones said. McClellan is recovering at

a London hospital after surgeons removed a huge blood clot which formed in his brain during a fight Feb. 25 against British boxer Nigel Benn. He spent 11 days on life support.

The severity of the injury has raised concerns that box-ing should be banned — a position supported by the American Medical Associa-

from her doubles sore hip.

but was expected to play

fourth seeded Brenda Schultz

"Hopefully. I'm going to play tomorrow," she said, "I probably could have forced

it, but it was too dangerous.

Sampras defeats Rafter

Top seed Pete Sampras

squandered two match points

in the second set but bore

down to defeat 15th seed

Patrick Rafter of Australia

6-4 6-7 (8-10) 6-1 in the third

round of the \$1,800,000

Newsweek Champions Cup

Fourteenth seed Thomas

Muster of Austria saved

three match points and upset

fourth-seeded Michael Chang

6-1 5-7 7-6 (7-3) in another

third-round match at the 56-

player, hard court tourna-

Third seed Boris Becker of

Germany was in complete

control of his third-round

match when unseeded Mar-

celo Rios of Chile had to

retire at 6-3 3-2 with a

tin won a hattle of big serves

over fellow American David

Wheaton 7-6 (7-5) 4-6 7-5 in a

contest that saw 19 aces from

Martin and 14 from Wheaton

with just two double faults

Sampras against Martin.

Quarterfinals pairings pit

from each.

Eighth-seeded Todd Mar-

strained left hip muscle.

on Friday.

in the semis on Saturday.

tion, which states the primary purpose of the series is to inflict injury.

Hopkins scientists recently completed an eight-year study funded by the U.S. Olympic Committee and th national institutes of health in which it looked at brain function of 484 amateur boxers between the ages of 13 and 21 in Washington, Houston, Cleveland, St. Louis, New York City and the Lake Charles area of Louisiana.

Neuropsychological tests and tests to evaluate brainf wave activity found no evidence that amaleur boxing impairs brain functioning. but left open the possibility that repeated, jarring blows

could result in brain damage. Scientists just have to look at pro fighters suffering from dementia pugilistica or 'punch drunk syndrome" to know that boxing causes

brain damage, said Dr. Wal-

seventh seed Wayne Ferreira

of South Africa against second seed Andre Agassi. Muster against 11th seed Ste-

fan Edberg of Sweden, and

Becker against 12th-seeded Swede Magnus Larsson, who

beat sixth seed Michael Sticb

of Germany 5-7 7-6 (8-6) 7-6

Sampras, ranked number

one in the world, had match

points at 6-5 and 8-7 in the

second-set tiebreak, but the

22nd-ranked Rafter

answered with a service win-

ner the first time and an ace

Sampras, who blitzed Raf-

ter in the third set, has now

lost seven of the eight tieb-

reaks he has played this year.

an unusual statistic as attack-

ing players like Sampras typi-

cally fare well in tiehreaks.

poor performance in tieb-

reaks to a lapse in concentra-

"It's going to get a lot tougher this year if I can't

start winning a few break-

ers," Sampras said. "Maybe I

need to take a deep breath

beforehand and think about

Austrian prevailed on fore-

hand errors from Chang in

Sampras attributed his

the second.

TENNIS ROUNDUP

Hopkins scientists involved in the accelerometer study.

damge is too great.

professional boxing, similar to when gloves with thumbs were banned after Sugar Ray Leonard suffered a de-tached retina in 1981 during fight against Thomas Hearns, said Stephen B. Acunto, founder of the American Association for the Improvement of Boxing and a commissioner with the New York State Athletic Commis-



Arantxa Sanchez

what I need to do. Other than that, I was pleased how I played in the third set." points that saw long baseline Chang, ranked fourth, had rallies typical of the match. double match point on the The courts are slow and both 18th-ranked Muster's serve at players like to play the base-5-4 in the third set, but the

Chang reached match

point again on Muster's serve at 6-5 in the third set, but Muster responded this time with a backhand winner and ultimately forced a tiebreak.

Muster, known for playing

relentlessly on every points finally winning the tiebres

Eddle Murphy relentlessly on every point jumped out to a 5-2 lead in the tiebreak by pinning the American to the baseline American to the baseline shots.

ream wOrlando clinch playoff berth

ORLANDO (R) — The Orlando Magic became the first NBA team to clinch a playoff berth on Friday, but this time around, they're aiming a lot higher. Shaquille O'Neal scored 26

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points and grahbed 15 rebounds to lead the Magic, who have never won a playoff game, past the Portland Trail Blazers 97-85.

"Last year it was nice with the streamers and all because it was our first time but we have much loftier goals this year," said Orlando coach

Orlando (47-14) has the best record in the NBA and increased its lead to seven games over New York in the Atlantic Division. Orlando is a league-best 31-1 at home.

"I think everyone's kind of spoiled this year," guard Anternee Hardaway said. "From having the best record in the best record in the NBA and clinching a spot, 1 think the only thing that's on their (the fans') minds is winning the entire thing."
Hardaway had 20 points and Nick Anderson 22.

Otis Thorpe had 21 points to lead Portland, which played without starting point grand Rod trickland (sore nght shoulder).

In Chicago, the Bulls over-came the distractions of the possible return of Michael Jordan to roll to a 99-76 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Toni Kukoc scored 19 15 1() Teach points to lead a balanced attack in Chicago's first game since the Jordan rumours started swirling. Jordan quit baseball on Friday, and the former Buils superstar has worked out with the team at their past two practices.

The win snapped Chicago's five-game losing streak against Cleveland, which was led by Tyrone Hill's 13

In Phoenix, Rik Smits scored 22 points and Mark Jackson and Derrick McKey ad 21 apiece as the Indiana Pacers noset the Suns 112-97. Charles Barkley scored 19 for the Suns, who fell one game behind Orlando for the best record in the league. Phoenix point guard Kevin Johnson pulled a groin muscle in the first quarter and did

not return. In Boston, Kenny Anderson scored 21 points and Derrick Coleman added 20 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists to lead the New Jersey Nets to their most lopsided victory ever over the Celtics,

The Nets moved past Boston into the final Eastern Conference playoff berth. Their three-game win streak equals their longest of the

season. Erie Montross scored 21 points to lead Boston, which has lost three straight. In Baltimore, Todd Day

scored 26 points as the Milwankee Bucks ended a threegame slide, 114-111 over the Washington Bullets. Marty Conion started for the injured Glenn Robinson

(hip pointer) and scored 20 points as the Bucks remainzed 21/2 games behind the Nets for the final Eastern playoff spot. In Atlanta, Ken Norman scored 11 of his 25 points

during a 21-2 first-half run and the Hawks set a franchise record with 14 3-pointers in a 108-81 rout of the New York Knicks.

Mookie Blaylock scored 27 points for Atlanta, which matched its season low in points allowed and reached .500 (30-30) for the first time this season.

John Starks's 17 points led the Knicks, who had a fourgame winning streak snap-

scored 22 point	Karl Malone
scored 22 point nacek added 1 beat the Sacri 110-93.	19 as the Jazz amento Kings

Mitch Richmond scored 19 for the Kings, who have lost 10 of their last 11 games and lead Denver hy just 11/2 games in the race for the final Western Conference playoff

At Detroit, rookie Jalen Rose had 20 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists and Rodney Rogers added 19 points and a career-high 21 rebounds to lead the Denver Nuggest to a 99-88 victory over the Pistons.

Denver led by as many as 25 points in the fourth quarter, but then had to hold off a furious Pistons' rally. Detroit hit 10 straight baskets in a 27-4 run to pull within 83-81 with 6:13 remaining but Denver scored the next seven

Allan Hunston scored a career-high 36 points, 22 in the fourth quarter, for De-

In Philadelphia, David Robinson had 33 points, 12 rebounds and five blocks to lead the San Antonio Spurs to their 10th win in 11 games, 100-94 over the 76crs. Avery Johnson added 23

points and eight assists. Dana Barros scored 24 points and Clarence Weatherspoon 22 for Philadelphia, which has lost 11 of its last 14.

At Minnesota, Isaiah Rider returned from a four-game absence to score 33 points as the Timberwolves ended a three-game losing streak, 109-103 over the Los Angeles

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	RESU	LTS .	
Atlanta Tew Jersey Driando an Antonio filwaukee Denver Jinnesota hicago diana	108 111 97 100 114 99 109 99	New York Boston Portland Philadelphia Washington Detroit LA Lakers Cleveland Phoenix	81 85 94 111 88 103 76 97
tah a Clippers	110 121	Sacramento Golden State	93 102

NBA champions unsettled Jordan HOUSTON (AP) - What's wrong with the Houston Everyone on the National basketball Association team is Times trying to solve the riddle and guard Kenny Smith won't disagree with any of the theories. "It would be hard to disagree with any critique right Tel:

now, everything seems to be wrong," Smith said. The rocket's once-proud defence regularly allows 100-

plus points, they fade in the fourth quarter, they've lost five in a row and they're grouping through games trying to get acquainted, with new teammates.

Hakeem Olajuwon is still the foundation but even he has

shown signs of wear, drawing a rare technical foul and fouling out of the latest loss to the Phoenix Suns.
"We realise there is a bigger picture and we're still putting in the colours," Smith said. "We've got the hiue put er but there's orange, red and green still to put on the

By any analogy, the Rockets are far removed from the clutch performers who scratched their way to the NBA title

Houston has a 35-24 record goint into the game against the Dallas Mavericks, compared to 42-17 through 59 games ast season when the Rockets had a franchise-high 58-24

The Rockets made a bold stroke on Feb. 14 by trading Otis Thorpe to the Portland Trail Blazers and brought

home Olajuwon's college Pal Clyde Drexler.

But since the trade, the Rockets are 6-7 and have shown the ability to lose to bad teams as well as the elite. They're been outscored in the fourth quarter of each game in their

Coach Rudy Tomjanovich is responding by sending his players to the film room.

We've got to do a lot of tape work," Tomjanovich said. "It's hard. I hated that as a player because no one likes The Rockets traded Thorpe's muscle for Drexler's

and the adjustment is not complete. The Rockets have had three days to work out the Kinks Tuesday night's 113-102 loss to the Suns. Heating up defensive intensity has been the theme this week.

Asian U-18 Basketball Championship

Jordan clinches 3rd place, qualifies for World Championship

in Manila and Aleen Bannayan is Amman

"WE ARE IN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS!"

THIS was the only statement Jordan Baskethall Federation (IBF) officials could ntter holding back tears after the Kingdom's under-18 team Saturday defeated Thailand 62-56 to clinch third place in the Asian jnnior basketball competition to qualify for the world championships.

The Jordanian team's history-making win made them the Kingdom's first athletic team to represent Asia in a world champions as they will join four time Asian championships, Chi-

Minister of Youth Awad Khieifut Saturday sent a cable of congratulations to His Majesty King Hussein following the U-18 banket-ball team's third pince finish and qualification to the world championship. He said the team's players de-dicated the victory to His Majesty in appreciation of his continued encouragement and support of sports, particularly basketball. He added that the team was the first in the Kingdom's history to get an Asian medal

na and 1995 winners South Korea, in the championships which will be held in Greece in July. South Korea upset favourites and titleholders

China 55-48 in the final

and qualify for a world championship finals in team

match Saturday. The ouly Arab team in the 15 nation tournament, the relatively inexperienced Jordanian team (who were only regronped 2 Jordan's victorious U-18 team returns home Wednesday with Asian broaze medals and move to the quarterfininjury, Ihab Emsih took on als. In that round they only the burden of scoring lost to China 88-49, but

their first international competition. But they fared well and even upset all-time Asian basketball greats such as the Philippines, Thailand and Japan. The team only lost to China and South Korea.

Thus, they earned the respect of fellow players and coaches and became heroes for sports fans following their impressive results here at home. As the 13th Asian U-18

championship concluded Saturday, the Jordanian team wrapped up their participation with five wins and three defeats. They beat Hong Kong 71-24 and Singapore 88-35 before losing 75-61 to South Korea to finish second in their group

scored a spectacular 72-71 win over hosts the Philippines and beat Japan 73-56 to move to the semi-finals. They lost 69-51 to South Korea in the semifinals.

On Saturday, the Jordanian team were determined to win in their final match as they ended the first half 26-23 and took a 51-36 early lead in the second half. coaches and JBF officials were worried when top scorers Zeid Alkhas and Ma'an Odeh earned their fifth personal fouls ruling

them out of the game. With Ashraf Samara missing the match because of

together with Samer Nino, Fadi Al Sagga, and Mahmoud Shaban. Nino and Emsih scored from crucial free throws that kept Jordan's lead and enabled them to take third place and earn the tournament's

bronze medals. The team's top scorers were: Zeid Alkhas 17, Ihah Emsih 15, Ma'an Odeh 10. The JBF's president Awwad Haddad and Vice President Samir Janakat dedicated the victory "to His Majesty King Hussein

and to the Jordanian peo-

The team's coaches Murad Barakat and Imad Al Saced said: "This is a

big achievement for Jordan. The players earned this victory. Congratulations to all Jordanians."

Team eaptain Zeid Alkhas, who won the tournament's best defensive player award, added: It is a great feeling. I'm very proud to see the Jordanian flag raised in this championship as we are so far away from home. We trained hard and won. The JBF is to be congratulated for their effort."

A tearful JBF secretary Ghaleb Balawi could only say: "It is a fabulous achievement. An important comeback for Jordanian basketball."

The team will be back in Amman on Wednesday.

Bobek takes lead; Russians retain ice dance title

BIRMINGHAM (AP) -Everyone knew that Nicole have predicted that the 17-Bobek had the kind of freespirit attitude it takes to shake off adversity.

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dealt with confidentiality to: P.O.Box 1107, Amman 11118 - Jordan Attractive salary for suitable candidate. away from a world title.

Bobek, unheralded on the world scene, pulled a stunning apset Friday to win the women's short programme at the World Figure Skating Championships. She did it with beautiful spirals, solid in the ice dance, in which jumps, a winning school-girl defending champions Oksana

1-3.

year-old "wild child" from

Chicago would be just steps

Dressed in white with gold sequins, Bobek was the epitome of grace and style as she glided across the ice at the NEC Arena. Her performance was judged better than the brute athleticism of fivetime Enropean champion Surya Bonaly.

There was no such surprise

of Russia took the gold again her combination jump -Rogers-style free dance. The silver went to Susanna Rahkamo and Petri Kokko of Finland, while Sophie Moniotte and Pascal Lavanchy of France won the

Even though there was only one flaw in her 21/2minute programme - she- Saturday.

But no one anywhere could smile - and nerves of steel. Grischuk and Yegeny Platov scrapped a toe at the end of Bobek all but leaped off the kiss-and-cry coach in amazement as the marks were announced: six 5.9s for presentation and first place on six of the nine judges' cards.

> The gold is within her grasp in she can give the same kind of effort in the free skate

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Tom & Jerry At 11:00 a.m.

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3 & Pass 4 & Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of &
High on the list of conventions to
shou without a perfect boding is the
Unusual No Trump. If you employ it
and don't buy the contract, you have
given declarer so much information
about the distribution that the hand
can often be played as if all the cards
are face up on the table. This example is from rubber bridge. With both opponents bidding. West would have been wiser to stay out of the suction until the strength of the North-South holding was

CONVENTIONS? HARDLY EVER

sion. The immediate repercussion was in the auction, where South re-frained from supporting North's aut to protect the ing of diamonds from possible decapitation at trick

one! The opening club lead was won in dummy and the ten of spaces was passed around to West's king. West cashed the queen of clubs and ace of diamonds to complete the defensive book, then exited with a diamond. A spade to the queen drew both out-standing trumps and declarer fo-

Tel.: 699238

cused on the heart sum.

With no knowledge of the lie of
the cards, declare probably would
have taken the percentage play in
hearts—cashing the ace and king in
an attempt to drop the queen. But
given the auction, that play would
be futile. At this valuerability, West surely

held at least 10 cards in the minors for the Unusual No Trump. Since the defender had turned up with two spades, there was room for no more than one heart in the West hand. So declarer cashed the ace of hearts and confeculty finessed the jack to land a contract that might have been defeated bad West remained

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CONCORD

CONCORD '2' Jean-Claude Van Damm

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Discussions advance proposal for Mideast development bank

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two days of meetings in Washingtoo have brought ideas together on the Jordanian proposal to create a regional bank for development and economie cooperation in the Middle East and the establishment of the bank would be announced at the Amman economic summit scheduled to be beld in Octo-

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Statements from Jawad Anani, who headed the Jordanian delegation to the talks, as well as the U.S. State Department indicated that the discussions had reached an advanced stage.

Dr. Anani, Jordan's former information minister and a key figure in the Kingdom's peace negotiations with Israel, was quoted as saying in the local press that the U.S. was suggesting a capital of \$5 hillioo for the proposed

The bank is seen as vital to regional economic development in that it will extend easy-term loans. This is of key significance to the delopment of the Jordan Rift Valley, where projects worth billions of dollars have been drawn up in consultations with the U.S. administratioo.

The idea of a regional development bank was first formally proposed at the Casablanca economic summit in October 1994, when Jordan also unveiled regional and national projects estimated to cost about \$18 billioo.

being debated behind the

sceoes while others have been initiated and it is expected that some of the proposals would be crystallised at

the Amman meeting. U.S. President Bill Clinton, in a speech to the Jordanian Parliament on Oct. 26 after the signiog of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, announced that bis administration was cootributing \$75 million to the capital of the proposed bank.

The European Union (EU) was inically reported to be sceptical about the idea but changed its mind and actively took part in a meeting in Washington in January on the subject.

Some of the Gulf states which bave the resources to contribute capital to the hank have been reportedly lukewarm to the idea and have seot conflicting sigoals. However, diplomats say, the oil-rich countries would be eventually convinced of the importance of their participatioo io the project.

Reporting the Washington meeting, the State Department said Friday that financial and foreign affairs offi-cials from 31 "regional and extra regional parties" attended the March 9 and 10 talks on "financing institutions for economic development in the Middle East and North Africa.

Technically the meeting was of a task force that was set up early this year at a similar gathering in Washing-too to pursue the idea of regional economic development and cooperatioo in the Middle East, with the prop-

"We are on track to produce detailed recommendations for political level decisions on oew institutional arrangements by the Amman economic summit in October 1995," said a State Departmeot statement carried by the United States Information Agency (USIA).

The statement said Jordan, Israel, Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) made "joint and individual presentations in support of their 1994 proposal for a new regional bank for ecocomic cooperation and development.

Dr. Anani, quoted io the Al Dustour daily, said Amman would host the next meeting of the task force on April 2 and the four sides were planning to present a joint proposal on the regional

According to Dr. Anani, the Washington meeting also studied working papers by the United States and the European Union (EU) oo their vision of financing regional economic development projects and special arrangements for easy-term loans through the proposed

"It was clear at the meeting that the positions of the U.S. and the European Unioo were close to each other and the final proposal would lead to the establishment of the bank," Dr. Anani reportedly told the paper.

He added that a committee would be set up at the level of ministers or deputy ministers

osal to set up a bank as the centre-piece. to formulate the general policies of economic development and this committee would meet every month uotil the bank is physically cre-

> According to Dr. Anani, only three members of the 15-nation EU failed to agree with a common EU approach in support of the proposal to set up the bank; these were Italy, Holland and Greece. It was oot immediately clear why the three bad reserva-

tions over the project.

The rest of the EU members asked that they be given more time to study the details of the proposal and they are expected to give an affirmative answer either at the April 2 meeting in Amman or the meeting after that. Dr. Anani was quoted as saying.

Attending the meeting along with Dr. Anani were Fayez Tarawneh, Jordan's ambassador to the United States, Ministry of Planning Secretary-General Nabil Ammari and Ceotral Bank of Jordan Depoty Governor Michel Marto.

The State Department said that 'in addition to discussing a detailed proposal for a bank with an integrally related eco-nomic policy dialogue forum, the group discussed a proposal for a ooo-bank institution to promote policy dialogue and project preparation.

"The discussions were substantive and held in a collaborative spirit. Many parti-cipants emphasised the significant degree of complemeotarity and coovergence among the ideas put

2 dead in collapse

RESCUE UNITS remove the body of a dead worker from a nearly-five-metredeep ditch that caved in early Saturday. Two workers were killed and another — all of them Egyptian nationals — was wounded in the incident that occurred in a street off Gardens Street (see story on page 3) (Photo by Rana Husseini)



Qatar asks what more Iraq has to do to end sanctions

DOHA (Agencies) -Qatar's foreign minister said Saturday his country was 'pained" hy the U.N. embargo on Iraq and asked what more was required of Baghdad for the sanctions to be

lifted. Sheikh Hamad Ben Jasim Al Thani, who made his comments in a joint news conference with his Iraqi counterpart, said his country would cootinue to observe the sanctions, imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"But we are pained by the emhargo and its effects for the Iraqi people, and we want to know what more remains and what exactly is tequired of Iraq and which it has yet to implement," said Sheikh Jasim. "In reality we are perplexed. We oeed explana-

Iraqi Foreigo Mioister Mohammad Saed Al Sahaf arrived here on Friday in a

l aliban

positions

surprise visit — the first hy a senior Iragi official to a Gulf Arah country that supported

Kowait during the crisis. Baghdad has been calling for the sanctions to be lifted arguing that it has complied with U.N. resolutions.

The United States and Britain are adamant that the sanctions remain in place, but three other permanent members of the Security Council - France, Russia, and China - have signalled a willingness to ease up on the punitive measures.

Russia's deputy foreign minister, Victor Posuvalyuk, arrived in Qatar Saturday on the first leg of a Gulf tour that will take him also to Sandi Arabia and Bahrain, to sound them oot oo the sanc-He said Moscow "sees it is

necessary that there should be positive action by the Security Council," which is scheduled to meet Monday to review the embargo. Mr. Sahaf said the oil

emhargo, which has deprived Baghdad of its main source of reveoue, should be lifted in line with U.N. Secority Council decisions that linked the blockade to the destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and the activatioo of a system for monitoring its military indus-

In an interview with the daily Al Raya published Saturday Mr. Sahaf also called for reconciliation among Arah countries which have been divided since Kuwait's

Mr. Sahaf said Iraq backed Egypt's campaign against Israel's nuclear arsenal and Arah threats to suspend their commitment to the international Non-Proliferation Treaty until Israel agrees to

(Continued on page 7)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince congratulates team

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highoess Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday seot a cable to the Under-18 national basketball team congratulating its members for winning the third place in the Asian championship which concloded Saturday in the Philippines. The national team scored a 62-56 win over Thailand which wou the fourth place. The first and secood places went to China and South Korea respectively (see page 11).

Japanese evening held in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) - Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan on Saturday attended a Japanese evening organised by the Japanese embassy in cooperation with the ese international Cooperation Agency and the Ikeb na Chuh in Amman. The evening, whose proceeds beoefitted the Muslim Young Womeo's Society for special education, included a show of kimono, the Japanese traditional costume, Japanese folkloric shows and a flower exhibition. The evening was attended by several ministers. Japanese Ambassador Ynji Ikeda and Mrs. Ikeda.

Libya urges Arab action in Lockerble affair

CAIRO (AFP) — A Libyan eovoy to Egypt called on the Arab League Saturday to take action in the Lockerbie affair following "new informatioo" which be said proved the innocence of Libyans accused in the 1988 bombing. "New information shows that two Libyan citizens were not involved in this case," Abdel Ati Al Ebeidi said. "The information calls for a discussion (by the Arab League) to take whatever steps are necessary in light of this informatioo," Ebeidi told journalists after talks with Foreign Minister Amr Musa. Mr. Ebeidi was apparently referring to a U.S. report implicating Iran in the bombing poblished in January in the Scottish newspaper The Daily Record. At the time Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid said the report "strengthens without a doubt the Libyan positioo and directs accusations towards parties other than Libya." He also hoped that the Uoited States and Britain would reexamine their position on U.N. sanctions imposed on Libya in April 1992.

3 Iranians hanged for murder, robbery

TEHRAN (AFP) - Three Iranians were hanged io public in oorthwestern Iran on charges of murder, armed robbery and "spreading insecurity," the Hamshahri daily reported Saturday. The three men — Jauad Taheri, Kavad Bahrampour and Ismail Mohammadi - were executed near Naghadeh, in West Azerbaijan province. The suspects were found guilty of several murders, the paper said, but gave no further details. The death penalty has been io force for coovicted armed robbers in Iran since 1989.

Militants kili Coptic Christian in Minva

MINYA (AFP) - Suspected Islamic militants on Saturday shot dead a Coptic Christian alleged to have collaborated with the authorities in the troubled southern province of Minya, Egyptian police said. Hanna Faress Mikhail, 75, died when the gunmen burst into his bome and opened fire with automatie weapons. He was the mayor of Herz village, 280 kilometres south of Cairo. The outlawed fundamentalist movement Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah had accused him of being a charlatan and providing the authorities with information about militant activities. His death raised to 673 the number of people killed in unrest since the militants launched a violent anti-government campaign in March

Egypt detains journalists on camel routes

ASWAN (R) - Egyptian police arrested an American and a British journalist who tried to enter the country from Sudan via desert routes used for centuries by camel caravans, security sources said on Saturday. They said the two women were held for five days after trying to cross the border without permits with a group of berdsmen. They told police they were researching traditional desert journeys made by Sudanese camel traders who drive their camels hundreds of kilometres north for sale in Cairo. Police named the two as Angela Stepbens, an American, and Lorraine Chitock, a Briton. The main crossing betweeo Egypt and Sudan, a ferry which shuttles between the northern and southern edges of Lake Nasser, has been closed for three months because of arguments over security arrangements between the two countries.

Somali militia clashes with airport looters; 2 dead

MOGADISHU (Agencies)

— Two milinameo were killed when shooting broke out overnight at Mogadisho airport between looters and militia guarding the airport since the departure of U.N. peacekeepers, a Somali newspaper said Saturday.

The looters had invaded the airport, which has remained closed since the U.N. troops pulled out of Somalia almost two weeks ago, the report said. Rival warlords General

Mohammad Farah Aideed and the self-styled president Ali Mohammad, have failed to reopen the airport despite agreeing to do so. Fuel and wood were

among the goods looted from the airport, shut on Feb. 28 when the last U.N. flight left Mogadishu carrying U.N. Special Representative Victor Gbeho and his aides.

The airport is guarded by the Habr Gedir militia, which supports Gen. Aideed, and the Ahgal militia, which backs Mr. Ali Mahdi, bot coocern has been expressed that unless the militias are brought under cootrol, it will be impossible to ran either the port or airport.

The port reopened Thursday and an Egyptian ship carrying 60,000 toones of food and equipment docked

without a tug. Early Saturday the goods brought in hy the ship went on sale in the capital's main

Bot port officials were calling on the United Nations to Gen. Aideed.

return vital equipment which they said the withdrawing peacekeepers had taken with them, and without which the port could not accommodate larger sbips, Xog-Ogaal said. The paper quoted Somali

Ports Cooperation General Manager Ahmad Hassao Dahir as saying: "We don't have tugboats and the other necessary facilities, so big vessels could either cause damage to the facility or the body of vessels. We demand the quick return of the equipments taken by U.N. Operatioo in Somalia (UNOSOM) for security reasons."

The U.N. troops, who pulled out of Somalia under the protection of a six-natioo task force, closed the port oo Feb.

The U.N. force took all essential port and airport equipment with it in the expectation that the clans would fight for both facilities. promising to return it once competent aothorities were in place.

Somalis said two clashes broke out oo Friday in the airport. Clan elders intervened to

broker a truce and on Saturday Mogadishu residents said the airport area was calm. The clash underlioed the fragility of the agreement betweeo rival clans, reached af-

ter the U.N.'s departure, to share control of the airport and sea port. Efforts to prevent a spiral into renewed chaos at the airport have been led hy

'Foreign' role reported in U.S. bombing 'plots'

NEW YORK (AP) - The defense in the trial of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman has demanded that prosecutors turn over evidence they say might indicate foreign involvement in the World Trade Centre bombing.

Roger Stavis, a lawyer for defendant El Sayyid Nosair, asked prosecutors on Thursday for documentation provided by Federal Burean of Investigation (FBI) informant Emad Salem that is referred to in a Jan. 17, 1993, letter to the FBI director.

The letter, written to justify the more than \$1 million promised to Mr. Salem for his help, said Mr. Salem "bas documented the role of at least two foreign powers in these planned incidents," Mr. Stavis said.

The incidents appeared to be a reference to multiple plots that were allegedly being planned by Sheikh About Rahman and his followers to ...ree the United States to change its Middle East policies.

Prosecutors say the 1I defendants were planning in 1993 to bomb the United Nations, FBI headquarters and two tunnels and a bridge hnking Manhattan and New Jersey as well as assassinate the Egyptian president and

Meaowhile, Defeoce Lawyer Joho Jacobs again asked U.S. District Judge Michael Mukasey to force prosecutors to turn over any new information related to Ramzi Yousef, the alleged mastermind of the trade centre hombing who was arrested last mooth in Pakis-

Mr. Jacobs and Mr. Stavis are seeking ioformation about foreign countries because proof of foreign involvement could be used to try to cripple the government's theory that Sheikb Abdul Rabman headed the conspiracy. However, Mr. Mukasey

warned the lawyers Thursday that just because "a foreign power or powers may have contributed in some fashion to that doesn't mean that other people were not involved.

Testimony in the trial that started Jan. 9 was suspended Thursday because one of the defendants was ill. The trial resumes on Monday.

Rabbani forces

Iraq oo Saturday launched a mediate between the rival fresh appeal for feuding Kur- Kurdistan Democratic Party dish factions to hold talks and rid themselves of U.S.-allied protection.

opportunity and free yourselves of the American KABUL (Agencies) - Governmeot forces launched a full-scale attack on Saturday on positions newly occup d by the Talihan studeot militia to failore."

in the southwest of the Afghan capital Kahul on Saturday, witnesses said. a place in the country and Forces loyal to President your American allies will ahandon you," the paper Burhanuddin Rahbani used belicopter gunships, jet fighters and heavy artillery as they moved into some of the Karte Seh district's frontline areas

from the opposition Shi'ite Muslim Hezb-e-Wahdat faction, the witnesses said. It was not immediately clear how much territory was captured by the troops.

Government aircraft bombed a Taliban base at Charasyah outside Kabul, aid workers said. There was oo immediate

seized earlier by the Talibans

estimate of casualties. A Taliban commaoder told reporters the powerful militia bad taken over all Wahdat positions io Karte Seh district on Friday night.

Commander Mullah Mohammad Ghous said the Talihans were maintaining their defensive positions. Thousands of civilians were fleeing to sooth of Kabul as government troops were seen looting abandoned homes.

The push seemed aimed at winning more territory after Wahdat, hard-pressed by a government offensive, agreed to hand over its frontlines to the Taliban, who says they wants to end the factional fighting in the war-ravaged country.

"We are very angry with Rabbani and his people, they are not a legitimate government," Mr. Ghous told reporters at Charasyah. Mr. Rabbani has been

trying to gain control of soothern Kabul since last weekend when his forces launched a three-day offensive that killed as many as 100 people and wounded several hundred more. A United Nations peace

plan has called for Mr. Rabbani to band over power to a multiparty council oo March Mr. Rabbani has rejected the deadline unless the Tali-

hans also participate in the

Iraq calls on feuding Kurds to hold talks BAGHDAD (Agencies) - Hussein in January offered to

You have to seize this

grip," the official Al Jumhuriyah newspaper told the Kurds, adding that "counting on the United States will lead "After the sanctions are lifted you will no longer have

The call came on the anniversary of a law adopted in 1974 granting self-rule to the provinces of Dobuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyeb in Iraqi

The Kurds have controlled the region in defiance of Baghdad and set up their own

parliament since launching an shortive rebellion after the January-February 1991 Gulf war. The Kurdish-beld area is protected by an allied air force based in Turkey. Iraqi President Saddam

(KDP) and the Patriotic Unioo of Kurdistan (PUK'. which have been locked to A hitter power struggle for several mooths, but the offer was turned down. Hundreds have died in the

clashes and the PUK have accused Iraqi governme troops of shelling t. Kurdish-held area — a

charge denied by Baghdad. Iraq oo Friday categorically denied the Kurdish accusations that its army was shelling Kurdish areas.

Iraqi Foreign Mioister Mohammad Said Al Sahaf told the official Qatari agency (QNA) oo his arrival io Doha: "There is no movemeot of Iraqi troops to the north and no shelling by the Iraqi army of the Kurdish

The PUK said Thursday that Iraqi government troops had pounded a Kurdish town in oorthern Iraq with heavy artillery on Wednesday killing ooe civilian and wounding

(Continued on page 7)

Algerian paper says **GIA** behind bombing

ALGIERS (Agencies) - A council, the paper said. carbomh attack on an Algiers police housing complex which wounded 63 people was carried out by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), a newspaper said here Satur-

The GIA, the most hardline of Algeria's extremist groups, is using a specialised network of "young faoatics" to carry out carbomb attacks, La Tribune oewspaper said. The paper is generally well-informed on Islamie armed groups.

The group, all under the age of 22, call themselves Al Mouakioune Bi Dam (Signatures with blood) said the paper, generally wellinformed on Algeria's extremist fundamentalist groups.

The network is led by Lounes Bahlouli, known as Ayoub, a 32-year-old sentenced to death in absentia for bis part in a bomb attack on Algiers international airport, the oewspaper said.

That attack, in August 1992, killed nine people and injured 128.

Mr. Bahlouli is a member of the GIA's consultative

Friday's attack on the housing complex followed a warning from the group threatening to attack women linked to the security forces, and appeared to mark a new escalation in the three-year terror campaign aimed at

government. It was the first attack of its size against a specifically civilian target, bousing womeo and children. Eight children were among the wounded.

ousting the military-hacked

The bomb attack, which has not been claimed, blew up betweeo two buildings oo the Garidi estate for police officers and their families, which is surrounded by a high perimeter wall topped with barbed wire.

The estate is in the working-class soburh of Kouba, a fundameotalist stronghold.

In a statement published by the London-based Arab newspaper Al Hayat, the GIA said the group had set Friday as a deadline for the authorities to free all Islamist women they were holding and abandon legal proceeding against them.

Italian surgeon gets AIDS virus

from scalpel cut

ROME (R) - An Italian surgeon contracted the HIV virus that causes AIDS in an accident with a scalpel while operating on a patient who was HIV-positive, an Italian researcher said Friday. Dr. Ginseppe Ippolito said it was the first documented case of transmission of the virus in sncb eircumstances. Dr. Ippolito beads a team at Rome's Spallanzani Hospital that has conducted one of only two major studies into the occupation risk of AIDS among health care workers. He said the other study was in the United States. Confirming newspaper reporters, Dr. Ippoliti told Reuters that the accident occurred in an Italian hospital last year wheo the scalpel cut through the surgeoo's protective surgical glove. he declined to identify the surgeon, even by sex, and would not say where in Italy the operation took place. "It is the first documented case of seroconversion in this way to my koowledge," Dr. Ippolito said in an interview. He said the surgeon had undergone an HIV test immediately after the nick to the band. The test was negative but a follow-up test one month la-ter was positive, he added. We excluded all other possible means of transmission. he said. Dr. Ippolito said his team had recorded 2,342 cases of occupational exposure to HIV among health workers between 1986 and

Portuguese pretender to marry

LISBON (AFP) - The pretender to the defunct throne ... of Portugal, Dom Duarte, 49, Duke of Braganza, is to marry Isabel de Heredia, 28, according to a "royal" state ... ment released Friday by his aide. The wedding date was I not announced but sources in the bride's family said it :would be May 6. The ceremony will be held at a monastery in Lisbon's historic Belem district on the banks of the Tagus, the statement said. The bride-to-be is the daughter of aristocratic pareots who speot her childhood in what was then the Portuguese colouy of Angola and then bved 10 years in Brazil. She returned to Portugal six years ago, the state ment said. After the marriage she will bave the title Princess Das Beiras.

German gets life for murder of gay lover

MUNICH (R) - A German man was sentenced to life in jail for killing his homoser ual lover and chopping his body into pieces. Georg Has selberg, 33, had originally admitted murdering his 81 year-old lover and eating his mternal organs, but later recanted his confessioo to police. The court rejected Mr. Hasselberg's contention Mr. Hasselberg's continued that the victim had died the had oatural death. It ruled he had smothered the older man with a pillow out of deep a seated batred, taken his money and sliced up the corpse. Mr. Hasselberg test fied be bad only wanted to dispose of his lover's body after he died in January 1993. Friends became concerned when they could not resch the victim, a diabetic with the victim, a diabetic win severe heart problems, by telephooe. A subsequent search discovered his took under the bed in his home under the bed in his nome.
Other body parts were found packed in plastic bags in 1 rubbish container.

Drive-in safe heist becomes

a drag

ANNECY, France (AFP)

Bungling robbers dragged

Bungling robbers dragged Bungling robbers dragged stolen safe for more than kilometre attached to the back of a pick-up truck Fired day after an attempt at drive-in heist went wrong.
The three raiders were spot The three raiders were spot ted by police as they dragged ted by the police as they dragged ted by the police as they dragged ted by the police as the p ted by police as they dragged the safe, stolen from a super the safe, stolen from a super market, along a street look market, along a street look market, along a street soling for a quiet spot to put ing ing for a quantitative onto the truck properly.

had earlier ram-raided the supermarket, smashing through plate-glass windows, dood and walls before attaching the sare by a cable to the back of the pick-up truck, and speeding off.

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